

The Use of an Extended Set of 3D NOESY Experiments for the Structure Determination of Double-Labelled Proteins by NMR

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Abstract

Structure determination of proteins by NMR is a well established procedure, widely used in biological and biochemical studies. A method for increasing the efficiency of this technique is proposed whereby a set of 3D NOESY experiments which employ heteronuclear labelling in both indirect dimensions are used to aid assignment of standard 3D ^{15}N - and ^{13}C -edited NOESY spectra.

Using these experiments in concert allows more precise identification of the ^1H nuclei involved in NOE interactions and, in doing so, ambiguity in the assignment of NOESY peaks is significantly reduced or eliminated altogether, expediting the process of structure calculation.

The complementary experiments investigated are a 3D $^{13}\text{C},^{15}\text{N}$ -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC and 3D $^{15}\text{N},^{15}\text{N}$ -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC for use with 3D ^{15}N -edited NOESY and 3D $^{13}\text{C},^{13}\text{C}$ -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC for use with 3D ^{13}C -edited NOESY. A methyl selective experiment, 3D $^{13}\text{C},^{13}\text{CH}_3$ -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC for use with 3D $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ -edited NOESY is also included. Pulse programs for these sequences have been written and implemented. The experiments which gave the greatest benefits to the assignment process are identified.

Semi-automated assignment protocols, developed within the CCPNMR Analysis software package, are developed and used to allow effective manipulation and elucidation of the multiple spectra, streamlining the process. The procedure is tested on the 18 kDa protein, β -Lactoglobulin B and the 15 kDa protein C4BP~1,2. The extent to which assignment ambiguity is reduced relative to a standard assignment method and the effect upon the time requirements for structure determination is investigated. It is shown that, for the sizes of proteins investigated, the time needed for to obtain solution structures is reduced from months to weeks.

During the course of this work, a near-complete resonance assignment of the protein β -Lactoglobulin B is achieved using standard triple resonance experiments for backbone and sidechain assignment and the low pH solution structure of this protein is solved.

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Abbreviations

BLG	β -Lactoglobulin
C4BP	C4b-Binding Protein
CCP	Complement Control Protein
COSY	Correlation Spectroscopy
CSI	Chemical Shift Index
FID	Free Induction Decay
HSQC	Heteronuclear Single Quantum Coherence
INEPT	Insensitive Nuclei Enhanced by Polarization Transfer
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
NOE	Nuclear Overhauser Effect
NOESY	Nuclear Overhauser Effect Spectroscopy
PFG	Pulsed Field Gradient
ppm	Parts Per Million
TOCSY	Total Correlation Spectroscopy
RDC	Residual Dipolar Coupling
RMSD	Root Mean Square Deviation

Names and Abbreviations for Amino Acids

Name	Abbreviation	Single Letter Code
Alanine	Ala	A
Arginine	Arg	R
Asparagine	Asn	N
Aspartic Acid	Asp	D
Cysteine	Cys	C
Glutamic Acid	Glu	E
Glutamine	Gln	Q
Glycine	Gly	G
Histidine	His	H
Isoleucine	Ile	I
Leucine	Leu	L
Lysine	Lys	K
Methionine	Met	M
Phenylalanine	Phe	F
Proline	Pro	P
Serine	Ser	S
Threonine	Thr	T
Tryptophan	Trp	W
Tyrosine	Tyr	Y
Valine	Val	V

Chapter 1

Introduction

The process of protein structure determination by NMR (Wuethrich, 1989), unlike direct methods such as X-ray crystallography, is an inherently indirect process. The spectroscopist collects an extensive set of NMR experiments and then uses them, along with a wealth of other, empirical data to determine a family of structures which fit all the experimental and empirical restraints. There are various types of experimental data available to the spectroscopist, but the principal one, on which all NMR-derived structures rely, is the Nuclear Overhauser Effect (NOE). NOESY experiments yield information about the distances which exist between the atoms of the molecule. Observing an NOE between two nuclei indicates that these are within certain distance limits. With a sufficient number of NOE interactions, a structure may be obtained by converting this information into distance limits or restraints for use in structure calculation.

A significant problem in solving protein structures by NMR has been the amount of time that the process requires. This time requirement is a combination of several time-intensive steps in the structure solving process – acquiring spectra, assigning the resonances, deriving inter-proton distances through the assignment of NOESY spectra and the structure calculation process. By far the most significant of these, however, is the assignment of NOESY spectra, and particularly the 3D NOESY spectra commonly used NMR-based protein investigations.

One of the principal difficulties associated with assigning these 3D NOESY spectra is the high degree of degeneracy which exists in the chemical shifts of large proteins. While the use of a third, heteronuclear frequency axis provides much improved signal dispersion, it does not eliminate the problems of degeneracy and, although it is usually possible to unambiguously identify one member of an interacting pair, obtaining the identity of the partner is often non-trivial and there may be several viable candidates. Problems associated with resolution and signal overlap within the spectra further aggravate this process. Consequently, a significant proportion of NOE interactions cannot be attributed to a specific pair of nuclei and the calculation protocol must consider several potential permutations.

The use of 4D spectra should, in theory, remove this problem altogether but such experiments require significantly longer acquisition times and, compared to 3D experiments, have compromised sensitivity and resolution.

In this project, the use of additional 3D NOESY spectra which provide the information which is 'missing' from standard heteronuclear-edited NOESY experiments is investigated. By proceeding in this manner, the spectra benefit from the improved sensitivity and resolution of 3D experiments (relative to 4D) and require no more time to acquire than the equivalent 4D. The most beneficial set of experiments and the manner in which these additional spectra are used, along with the mechanics of their implementation within NMR assignment software, are investigated with the aim of reducing the total time spent on assigning 3D NOESY spectra and, thus, the subsequent structure calculations.

Project Aims

Write and implement complementary NOESY experiments for use with ^{15}N -edited, ^{13}C -edited and $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ -edited NOESY experiments.

Complete the resonance assignment of β -lactoglobulin B.

Devise a protocol for the use of all the NOESY experiments and implement this protocol within the Analysis (Vranken et al., 2005) software package to allow the experiments to be used together in a simple manner, facilitating quick and efficient assignment of the NOESY spectra.

Determine which experiments are the most useful for obtaining decreased assignment ambiguity and accelerating the structure determination process.

Use the protocol to solve the low pH solution structure of β -lactoglobulin B and quantitatively assess the performance of the protocol relative to the standard method of assigning NOESY spectra.

Perform a further test of the protocol's efficiency by solving the structure of a second protein - C4BP~1,2.

Chapter 2

Background

2.1 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

NMR relies upon a property of atomic nuclei known as 'spin' which is characterised by the spin quantum number, I . Nuclei with non-zero values of I possess spin angular momentum. In combination with the charge of the nucleus, this gives rise to a magnetic moment, μ . In the presence of an external magnetic field, B_0 , the magnetic moments of such spin-active nuclei will align themselves with respect to the field in discrete, quantised states. The number of states is given by the quantum number, m_I , which can have $2I+1$, values ($I, I-1, I-2, \dots, -I$). Values of I are positive multiples of $\frac{1}{2}$ and this is largely an empirical parameter. Conveniently, the nuclei which are of greatest interest to studies of proteins – ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{15}N all possess $I = \frac{1}{2}$ and therefore have only two possible spin quantum numbers ($+\frac{1}{2}$ and $-\frac{1}{2}$) and, thus, two orientations of their spin — corresponding to alignment with or against B_0 . These states are termed α and β respectively as shown in Figure 2.1.

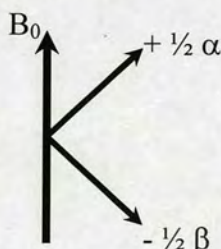


Figure 2.1: Orientations of a spin-1/2 nucleus with respect to a magnetic field, B_0

The magnetic moments are not static, however, and, under the influence of B_0 , they precess about the applied field. The frequency of precession, ν (in Hz), is termed the *Larmor* or *resonance* frequency and it is related to the strength of B_0 by equation 2.1:

$$\nu = \gamma B_0 \quad (2.1)$$

Where $\gamma = \gamma/2\pi$ and γ is a proportionality constant known as the gyromagnetic ratio, which is unique to each nucleus. The energies associated with the α and β states are non-equivalent and it follows that the populations of these two states will therefore be unequal, with a slight excess in the energetically more favourable α state, yielding the population difference necessary to spectroscopy. Transitions between these states can be induced by application of electromagnetic radiation. In order to induce a transition, the applied radiation must have a frequency equal to the resonance frequency. The energy associated with this radiation and, thus, the energy difference, ΔE , between the states is therefore given by equation 2.2:

$$\Delta E = \hbar \gamma B_0 \quad (2.2)$$

Where $\hbar = h/2\pi$ and h is Planck's constant. Therefore, the larger the magnetic field (and the gyromagnetic ratio), the bigger the splitting in energy. The size of the energy gap falls in the radio frequency (rf) range of the electromagnetic spectrum. Thus, by applying rf radiation, the equilibrium state of a sample can be perturbed. By observing as the system returns to equilibrium, information about the state of the system is obtained. This is the basic principle of NMR.

2.1.1 The Vector Model & Fourier Transformation

For convenience, the example of the ^1H nucleus will be used from now on. From the introductory description of NMR, in a magnetic field, a population difference will exist between the orientations of the magnetic moments of spin-active nuclei. Taken across the whole sample, this slight excess of nuclei in the lower energy level will lead to the

creation of a bulk magnetization vector, M , aligned with B_0 as a result of the contribution of the individual magnetic moments of all the nuclei in the sample. This idea is illustrated in Figure 2.2.

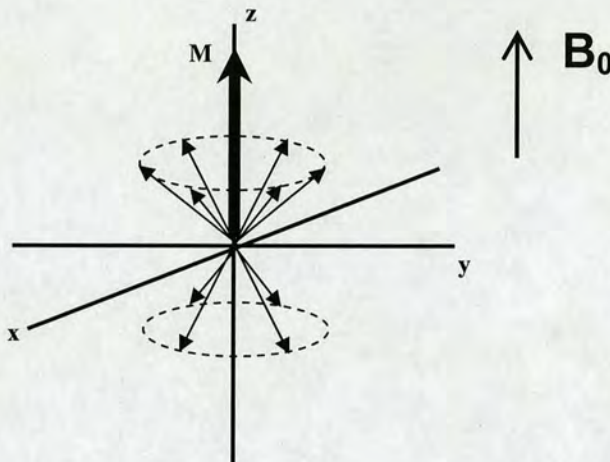


Figure 2.2: Origin of the bulk magnetization vector. An excess of spins (small arrows) in the α state results in the vector, M , aligned with the external field, B_0 .

Note that the spins are distributed randomly about the z -axis and, thus, their x - y or transverse components interfere destructively, resulting in zero net magnetization in this plane. The magnetic moment of an rf field, B_1 , applied to the sample will interact with this z -magnetization vector, bringing about transformations which correspond to changes in the populations of spins brought about by the transitions induced by the rf field. Ignoring for the moment the behaviour of the individual spins and assuming that B_1 meets the resonance condition outlined previously, applying B_1 in a direction perpendicular to B_0 will cause the vector M to precess about B_1 as illustrated in Figure 2.3. The angle through which the vector moves is determined by the length of time that it is exposed to B_1 . For reasons which will be explained later, this is usually of the order of μs and thus these fields are referred to as rf 'pulses'. Typically, angles of 90° ($\pi/2$ pulse) and 180° (π pulse) are used in NMR corresponding to equalisation and inversion of the α and β state populations respectively.

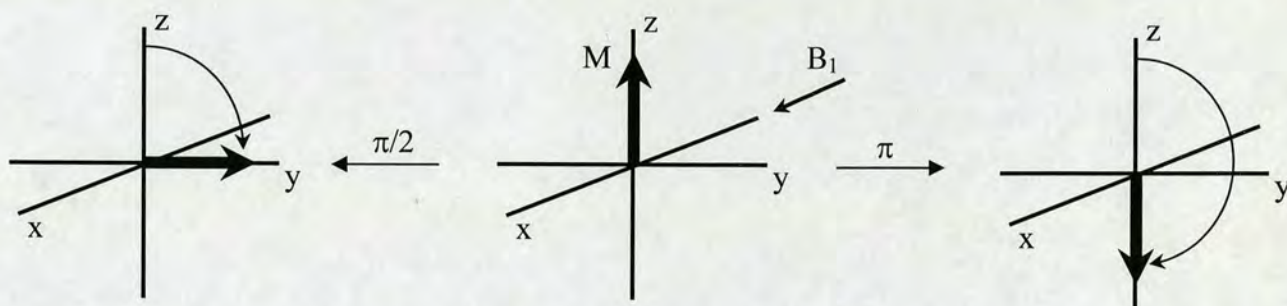


Figure 2.3: Interaction of rf field, B_1 (applied along $-x$), with magnetization vector, M , showing $90^\circ(\pi/2)$ and $180^\circ(\pi)$ rotations

In the case of the 90° pulse, it should be noted that this represents something more than simply making the populations equal; a phase coherence has also been imposed upon the spins. Where the distribution of spins about the z -axis had been random, an excess of spins are now aligned along the y axis. It should also be made clear that in these examples a rotating frame of reference is assumed i.e. the 'viewpoint' is moving about the z -axis at the resonance frequency and in the direction of precession.

On removing B_1 , M will begin to precess about B_0 at the Larmor frequency, in what is known as free precession, and will return to the z -axis as the populations of spins returns to its equilibrium value. As the transverse magnetization returns to the z -axis, two processes of relaxation are in action. The first mode of relaxation is the loss of phase coherence of the transverse magnetization as a result of the individual spins moving out of phase with one another during free precession. This is spin-spin relaxation and is characterised by the time constant, T_2 . The second mode is the restoration of longitudinal (z) magnetization by the various spins of the molecule using the assorted molecular motions of the system to provide or distribute energy as is required for the spins to 'flip' and return to equilibrium. This is spin-lattice relaxation, characterised by the time constant, T_1 . The spin-lattice and spin-spin relaxation are brought about by interactions with fluctuating magnetic fields orthogonal to the individual magnetic moments. These fluctuations, coupled with molecular motion act as local pulses and are

the mechanism which eventually leads to the restoration of Boltzmann equilibrium. It is the decaying, transverse magnetization that is detected by the receiver coil of the spectrometer giving rise to the free induction decay or FID. If the magnetization vector is tilted to the y axis, for example, as the spins relax and the magnetization vector precesses about z axis and returns to it, the y component of the magnetization will have the form of a decaying cosine wave as shown in Figure 2.4. The frequency of this wave will be the Larmor frequency of the spin.

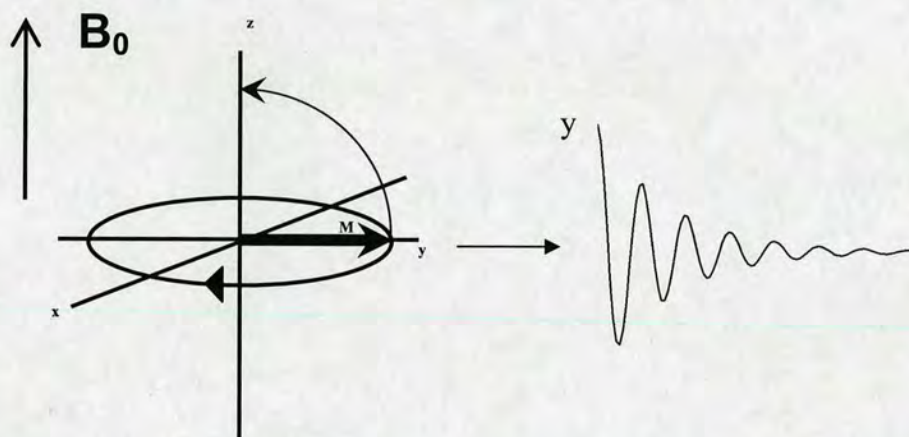


Figure 2.4: Generation of the FID signal – the result of the precession of the transverse magnetization and its gradual return to B_0

The examples used so far are somewhat simplistic in assuming that all spins in a sample possess the same resonance frequency. In reality, this is not the case and individual spins will resonate at different frequencies. The largest contribution to these differences comes from the effect of the magnetic field upon bonding electrons. Under the influence of B_0 , the electrons which surround the various nuclei of a molecule are also induced to precess, creating magnetic fields at the nucleus in opposition to B_0 . These opposing fields act to ‘shield’ the nucleus from B_0 and, therefore, the effective magnetic field experienced by a nucleus (and, thus, its resonance frequency) will depend upon the chemical environment of that nucleus. Transverse magnetization created by a $\pi/2$ rotation of M will therefore consist of numerous components, each precessing at a frequency which is characteristic of the chemical environment of the nuclei which gave

rise to it. In practice, resonance frequencies are expressed as a resonance offset, Ω , relative to some reference frequency. This phenomenon is called chemical shift and is given the symbol, δ . It allows the spectroscopist to distinguish between chemically distinct sites within a molecule. This obviously creates a range of rf energies required to match the various different resonance frequencies. By using rf pulses as mentioned previously, the inverse relationship between pulse length and excitation bandwidth is exploited where, for a pulse of length, Δt , there will be a frequency spread, in Hz, of ca. $\pm 1/\Delta t$, and it therefore becomes possible to excite a range of frequencies with a single, short rf pulse.

The full FID of a sample will therefore consist of many individual FID's, one from every environment within the sample and each with an amplitude proportional to the number of spins which exist in that environment. In order to make this primary NMR signal into something easily interpretable, it is necessary to identify the individual frequencies present within the FID together with their amplitudes. This is achieved by the Fourier transform. Put simply, the Fourier transform matches all possible frequencies against the FID to find which ones are present. This yields the simple, 1D NMR spectrum with signals dispersed in terms of their chemical shifts. The intensities of these signals will also be proportional to the amplitude of the FID though it should be noted that this relationship may be distorted during processing of the FID e.g. by applying window functions to the FID.

2.1.2 Scalar Coupling

Nuclei which are separated by a certain number of bonds (usually <3) can 'sense' the state of one another through the bonding electrons. This phenomenon is known as scalar coupling and the nuclei involved are said to be coupled to one another. Taking a simple example of two-spin $\frac{1}{2}$ nuclei, A and X, across the entire sample, all combinations of alignments - $A_{\alpha}X_{\alpha}$, $A_{\alpha}X_{\beta}$, $A_{\beta}X_{\alpha}$, $A_{\beta}X_{\beta}$ - will occur. Considering a single A spin,

whatever its orientation, it will 'see' X either aligned with itself or against. Each of these situations will give rise to a further, small change in the magnetic field experienced by A and, thus, the resonance frequency of A will also be altered. If X is aligned *with* the magnetic field, A is shielded more and, thus, will have a lower chemical shift value. If X is aligned *against* the field, the opposite is true (assuming that the coupling is positive in sense). The peak corresponding to spin A will therefore be split into two peaks, each with half the intensity. The same will be true for the signal from X. The magnitude of the splitting depends on the nature and number of bonds separating the interacting nuclei and their orientation in space with respect to each other. The value of this splitting is given the symbol J and will be the same for both spins. A stick representation of such a spectrum is given in Figure 2.5.

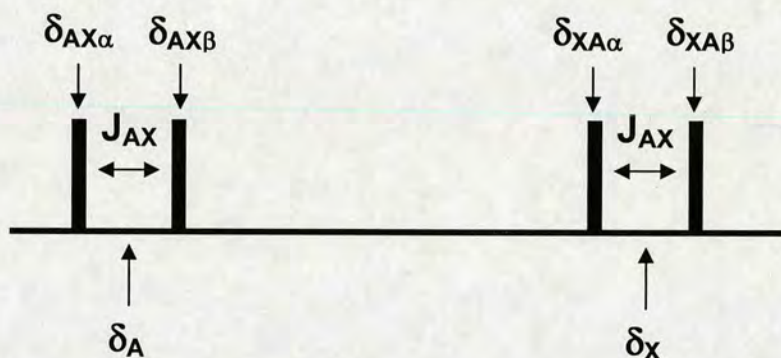


Figure 2.5: Stick representation of the spectrum of two coupled spin $\frac{1}{2}$ nuclei ($\nu_A > \nu_X$, $\Delta\nu \gg J_{AX}$)

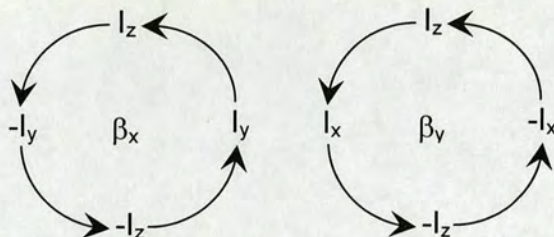
2.1.3 Product Operator Formalism

The vector model is a good visual tool for describing NMR but its usefulness becomes limited when trying to describe complex NMR experiments. The product operator formalism (Sorensen et al., 1983) provides a more convenient method for understanding the workings of NMR, describing the effect of pulses, free precession and coupling on a system in terms of the rotations of operators or products of operators in 'operator space'. A brief summary is given here (adapted from Hore et al., 2000).

x, y and z magnetization vectors of a spin, I , can be represented as the operators I_x , I_y and I_z . The effect of rf pulses, free precession and scalar coupling on these operators can be summarised as follows:

rf pulses:

$$\begin{aligned} I_x &\xrightarrow{\beta_x} I_x \\ I_y &\xrightarrow{\beta_x} I_y \cos \beta + I_z \sin \beta \\ I_z &\xrightarrow{\beta_x} I_z \cos \beta - I_y \sin \beta \end{aligned}$$

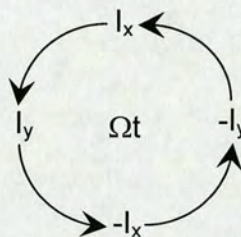


Where β is the flip angle of the pulse and the subscript denotes the phase of the pulse. Thus, as shown, a pulse from x has no effect on x-magnetization. Usually, β is 90° or 180° and so the terms are simplified. Thus, using the example of I_z under the influence of a 90° pulse applied from $-x$ (as illustrated using the vector model in Figure 2.3) gives the following transformation:

$$I_z \xrightarrow{90^\circ_{-x}} I_z \cos 90 + I_y \sin 90 \longrightarrow I_y$$

Free precession:

$$\begin{aligned} I_x &\xrightarrow{\Omega t} I_x \cos \Omega t + I_y \sin \Omega t \\ I_y &\xrightarrow{\Omega t} I_y \cos \Omega t - I_x \sin \Omega t \\ I_z &\xrightarrow{\Omega t} I_z \end{aligned}$$



Where Ω is the resonance offset ($= 2\pi\nu$, where ν is the resonance frequency) and t is the duration of the free precession.

Scalar coupling (for two coupled spins, I and S):

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_x &\xrightarrow{\pi J_{IS}t} I_x \cos \pi J_{XY}t + 2I_y S_z \sin \pi J_{XY}t \\
 I_y &\xrightarrow{\pi J_{IS}t} I_y \cos \pi J_{XY}t - 2I_x S_z \sin \pi J_{XY}t \\
 I_z &\xrightarrow{\pi J_{IS}t} I_z
 \end{aligned}$$

Evolution of magnetization under the influence of J-coupling thus gives new operators which are the products of the operators of the individual spins. These two spin operators transform under the influence of pulses and free precession in the same way as the I_x , I_y and I_z operators.

2.1.4 2D Spectroscopy

2D NMR allows the correlation of nuclei which share some relationship with one another and is a long-standing tool of the NMR spectroscopist (Jeener, 1971; Aue et al., 1976; Kessler et al., 1988). In the most common 2D experiments, nuclei are related either by their scalar couplings (COSY, TOCSY, HSQC) or by their proximity in space via dipolar couplings (NOESY). The whole process can be broadly split into four parts: preparation, evolution, mixing and detection and is easily illustrated by considering a simple, two pulse, COSY experiment illustrated in Figure 2.6.

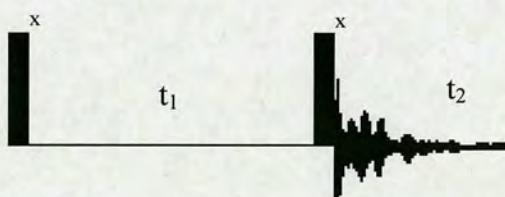


Figure 2.6: A 2D COSY NMR experiment. Black rectangles represent $\pi/2$ pulses applied from the x axis

The description of the first two steps, preparation and evolution, is as follows. The first pulse will tip the magnetization into the xy plane, as has been discussed, where it is then allowed to freely precess at its resonance frequency for a time, t_1 . After this period, a

second pulse is applied before detection. Depending on the length of the interval, t_1 , some, none, or all of the magnetization will be returned to the z axis before acquisition and, thus, the resultant FID will vary in amplitude according to the length of this period. Considering only a single spin, I , the product operator description of this will be:

$$I_z \xrightarrow{90^\circ_x} -I_y \xrightarrow{\Omega_I t_1} -I_y \cos \Omega_I t_1 + I_x \sin \Omega_I t_1 \xrightarrow{90^\circ_x} -I_z \cos \Omega_I t_1 + I_x \sin \Omega_I t_1$$

The final I_z term is unobservable z -magnetization but it can be seen that the observable I_x term has been modulated by the chemical shift of spin I . Collecting many FID's with gradually incrementing values of t_1 , will yield a collection of amplitude modulated spectra. Performing two Fourier transformations, one in the direction of t_1 and one in the direction of t_2 will give a 2D spectrum with a signal appearing at coordinates (δ_I, δ_I) . This is known as an autocorrelation or diagonal peak. Figure 2.7 illustrates the process.

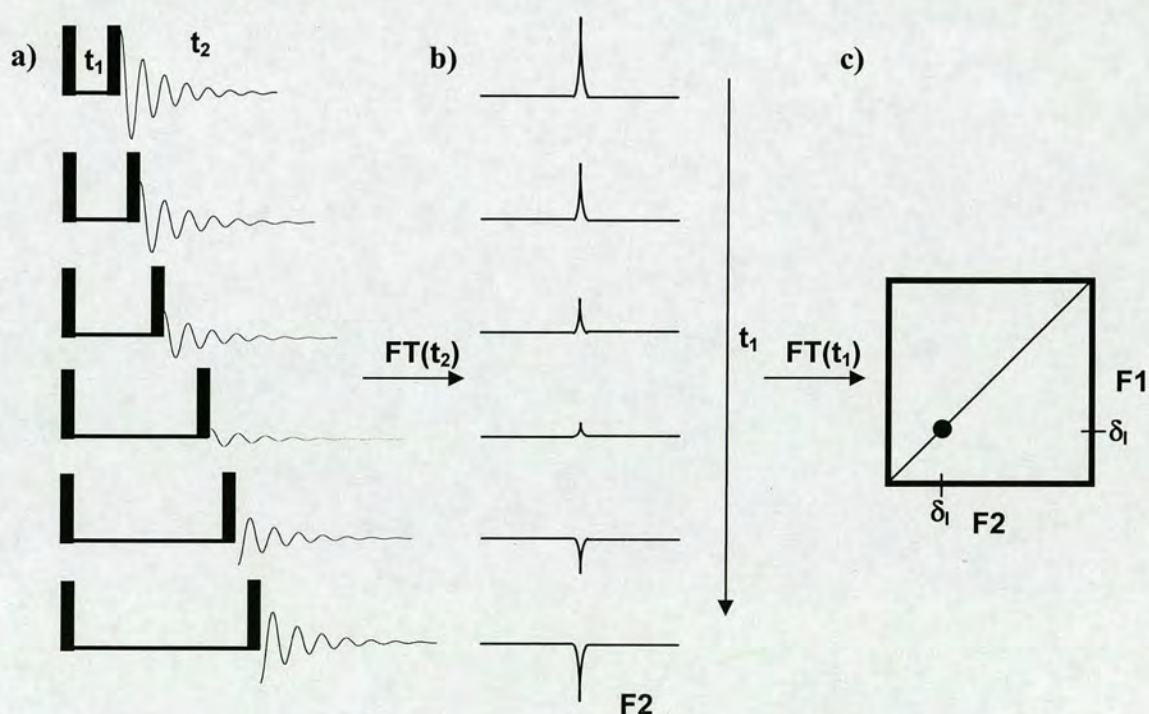


Figure 2.7: Schematic representation of a 2D COSY experiment. a) A series of FIDs are collected by increasing the length of the t_1 interval b) When applied to an isolated spin I , the first Fourier transform yields an array of amplitude-modulated spectra (interferogram) c) The second Fourier transform yields a 2D spectrum. Diagram adapted from Hore, 1995.

This, as it stands is not immensely useful but when this pulse sequence is applied to J-coupled spins, I and S, it results in the transfer of magnetization from spin I to spin S (and vice-versa).

For two coupled nuclei, I and S, The state of this spin system, prior to the final $\pi/2$ pulse is given as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_z &\xrightarrow{90^\circ_x} \xrightarrow{\Omega_I t_1} -I_y \cos \Omega_I t_1 + I_x \sin \Omega_I t_1 \\
 &\xrightarrow{\pi J_{IS} t_1} -I_y \cos \Omega_I t_1 \cos \pi J_{IS} t_1 + 2I_x S_z \cos \Omega_I t_1 \sin \pi J_{IS} t_1 \\
 &\quad + I_x \sin \Omega_I t_1 \cos \pi J_{IS} t_1 + 2I_y S_z \sin \Omega_I t_1 \sin \pi J_{IS} t_1 \\
 &\xrightarrow{90^\circ_x} -I_z \cos \Omega_I t_1 \cos \pi J_{IS} t_1 - 2I_x S_y \cos \Omega_I t_1 \sin \pi J_{IS} t_1 + I_x \sin \Omega_I t_1 \cos \pi J_{IS} t_1 \\
 &\quad - 2I_z S_y \sin \Omega_I t_1 \sin \pi J_{IS} t_1
 \end{aligned}$$

In this case, only the I_x and $I_z S_y$ terms lead to observable signal. The I_x term is the diagonal peak, as explained above but the $I_z S_y$ term represents magnetization of spin S which will precess at a frequency Ω_S during t_2 but which has been modulated by Ω_I during t_1 . Thus, performing two Fourier transformations as before will give a crosspeak with coordinates (δ_I, δ_S) . The same will be true for spin S, giving a second diagonal peak and a symmetry-related crosspeak as shown schematically in Figure 2.8.

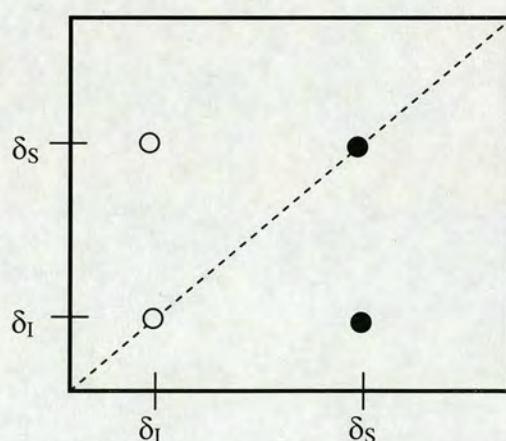


Figure 2.8. Cartoon representation of a 2D spectrum for a two-spin system

In reality, the precise form of these peaks is more complex than shown in Figure 2.8 since the diagonal peaks and crosspeaks are 90° out of phase; the coupling J_{IS} appears in phase and in antiphase for the diagonal peaks and crosspeaks respectively.

In the COSY experiment the preparation consisted of a relaxation period and the first $\pi/2$ pulse, the evolution period was the free precession period and mixing was achieved by the second $\pi/2$ pulse. This principle is the same for all other 2D experiments; the preparation and evolution of magnetization followed by some coherence transfer before, finally, detection.

2.1.5 Nuclear Overhauser Effect

The Nuclear Overhauser Effect or Enhancement (NOE) is a consequence of dipole-dipole interactions between nuclei that are close to one another in space. It is born of relaxation phenomena and results in a change in signal intensity for interacting nuclei. The relaxation of excited spins back to equilibrium has already been discussed but the mechanism of NOE needs some further explanation.

The transfer of energy to or from a spin to cause it to flip is the process by which longitudinal magnetization is recovered. The energy lost by the spins as they return to their equilibrium states is transferred into the various energy modes of the molecular lattice. As has already been noted, however, a spin can only 'flip' if it is exposed to a fluctuating field, fluctuating at the resonance frequency of the spin. It is this field which effects the transfer of energy from spin to lattice or vice-versa. Effectively, a local pulse must be created at the site of an individual spin, causing a spin-flip confined to that spin alone. This local field can be brought about in various ways but it is the interaction of magnetic dipoles or dipole-dipole relaxation which gives rise to NOE.

Two nuclei, whose mutual positions are fixed in the molecular frame and are sufficiently close, will experience a magnetic field due to one another. The orientation of each spin

with respect to B_0 will remain constant but, as the molecule tumbles in solution, the orientations of their magnetic dipoles which they subject one another to, will change over time. As the magnetic dipoles are anisotropic in space, this gives rise to fluctuating magnetic fields. Thus, one spin causes a fluctuating field at the site of the other, effecting spin-flips in the direction perpendicular to the magnetic field fluctuation. These spin flips can occur in an uncorrelated manner (spin I or S flips alone) or in a correlated manner (both spins flip together). Such correlated spin-flips cause so-called cross-relaxation which is at the heart of the NOE since it is this cross-relaxation which allows one spin to affect the populations of another.

Considering the case of two dipolar-coupled nuclei, I and S, shown in Figure 2.9, four possible combinations of states exist for the system.

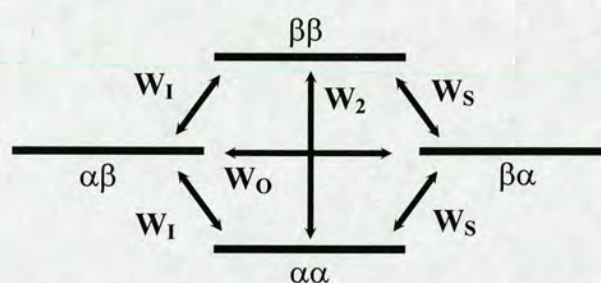


Figure 2.9: The four spin states of a two-spin system. Arrows indicate relaxation transitions arising from dipolar coupling. (Derived from Neuhaus & Williamson, 2000)

Six relaxation pathways are possible for this system with the probability of a transition for the I and S spins *alone* denoted W_I and W_S . W_0 and W_2 represent zero and double quantum transitions respectively where both spins flip simultaneously. These cross-relaxation pathways give rise to the NOE since an excited spin relaxing via one of these routes alters the populations and, therefore, intensities of the other spin. The rate of change of the population of a particular state is given by the appropriate combination of probabilities and populations pertaining to that state. So, for the $\alpha\alpha$ state, this description will take the form of equation 2.3:

$$\frac{dn_{\alpha\alpha}}{dt} = -(W_I + W_S + W_2)n_{\alpha\alpha} + W_I n_{\beta\alpha} + W_S n_{\alpha\beta} + W_2 n_{\beta\beta} \quad (2.3)$$

Analogous equations can be used to describe the other states. Since these populations are related to the z-magnetization for I and S, the time dependence of the intensity of the z-magnetization for I and S, ΔI_z and ΔS_z , can be obtained:

$$\frac{d\Delta I_z}{dt} = -\rho_I \Delta I_z - \sigma_{IS} S_z \quad (2.4)$$

$$\frac{d\Delta S_z}{dt} = -\rho_S \Delta S_z - \sigma_{IS} I_z \quad (2.5)$$

Where ρ_I and ρ_S are the combined probabilities of I and S spin flips respectively and σ_{IS} is the cross-relaxation rate constant given by the difference between the zero and double quantum transition probabilities (those that produce the NOE). These equations are known as the Solomon equations (Solomon, 1955) and show how z-magnetization evolves during the mixing period of the NOESY experiment. Provided σ_{IS} is non-zero, z-magnetization will be transferred between I and S during the course of the mixing time. The 2D NOESY sequence itself is shown in Figure 2.10.

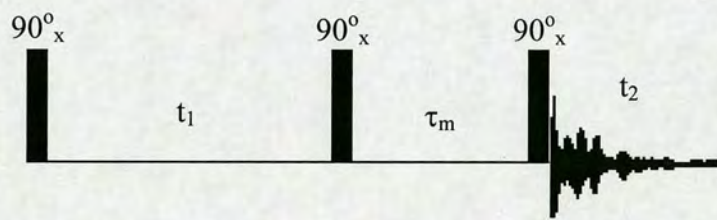


Figure 2.10: The 2D NOESY pulse sequence

As in the 2D COSY experiment discussed before, the preparation and evolution of the magnetization occurs via the action of a $\pi/2$ pulse, followed by a period of free precession, t_1 . A second $\pi/2$ pulse then creates the chemical shift modulated (-)z-

magnetization. During the following fixed mixing period, τ_m , cross relaxation occurs and, as a result, magnetization is exchanged between pairs of dipolar coupled nuclei. Assuming, for simplicity, a system with two nuclei which are not J-coupled but are dipolar coupled, and considering only the coherences of interest, the product operator treatment will be:

$$I_z \xrightarrow{90^\circ_x} \xrightarrow{\Omega_I t_1} \xrightarrow{90^\circ_x} -I_z \cos \Omega_I t_1 \xrightarrow{\tau_m} -a I_z \cos \Omega_I t_1 - b S_z \cos \Omega_I t_1$$

$$\xrightarrow{90^\circ_x} a I_y \cos \Omega_I t_1 + b S_y \cos \Omega_I t_1$$

As in the 2D COSY, the final terms represent a diagonal peak (I_y) and a crosspeak (S_y). The coefficients a and b reflect the size of these terms and are dependent upon the length of τ_m and the rate of cross-relaxation.

This technique is immensely useful. Due to the r^{-6} dependence of the NOE, it is only seen for nuclei which are ca. 5Å or less apart and thus provides a great deal of useful information. By showing which atoms are close together, the NOE details how the molecule must be arranged on order for these interactions to be seen. For NMR of proteins, this is the essential aspect of the NOE - the provision of distance restraints.

In folded proteins, the main chains are arranged in various ways, creating the structural features of proteins. In order to solve the protein structure, it is necessary to know more than simply the chemical environment of a spin and its J-coupled partners. As already stated, an NOE crosspeak between two signals gives a maximum distance separation for those two nuclei. Integrating this crosspeak to give its intensity allows a further refinement of that restraint. With sufficient restraints and knowledge of other considerations such as bond lengths, torsion angles etc, a computer program can be used to get a structure for the protein that satisfies all of these restraints. Thus, a full NOESY spectrum should contain much, if not all, of the information required to solve a structure.

A significant problem arises, however, on attempting to extract this information because, as has already been noted, a protein contains many hundreds of protons which will produce a spectrum rich in crosspeaks but complicated by a considerable overlap of signals. Figure 2.11 shows the 2D NOESY spectrum of β -lactoglobulin.

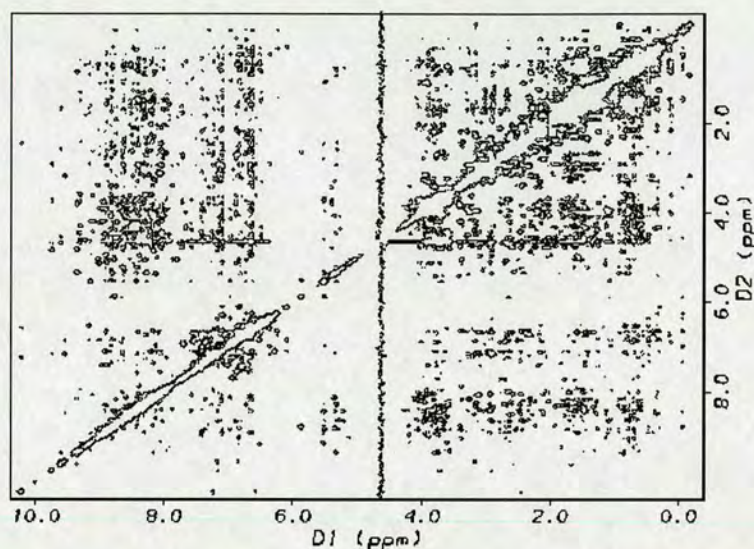


Figure 2.11: The 2D NOESY spectrum of β -Lactoglobulin.

Clearly, the spectrum is immensely complicated and it can be seen that attempting to attribute a particular crosspeak to a pair of signals becomes impossible. For the structure elucidation of larger proteins (ca. >8 kDa), an extra degree of dispersion is required to remove the overlap and allow identification of individual signals and crosspeaks. To this end, isotopic labelling of samples is employed, incorporating ^{15}N (single-labelled) or ^{13}C and ^{15}N (double-labelled) into the protein (Fesik & Zuiderweg, 1988; Marion et al., 1989; Dalvitt et al., 1992).

2.1.6 Heteronuclear correlation

^{13}C and ^{15}N are both NMR active nuclei with $I=1/2$. When incorporated into proteins they are usually not directly detected but rather used to create an indirectly detected dimension to disperse the signals along another frequency axis.

As described previously, in NMR a correlation can be made between interacting nuclei. COSY and TOCSY use through-bond, scalar coupling and NOESY uses through-space, dipolar coupling. Similarly, it is possible to correlate protons with heteronuclei by exploiting the coupling that exists between them. For protein NMR, the one-bond heteronuclear coupling between directly bound atoms is the most useful. The method by which magnetization is transferred from protons to their heteronuclei is called INEPT (Insensitive Nuclei Enhanced by Polarisation Transfer, Morris & Freeman, 1979). The INEPT sequence is as shown in Figure 2.12.

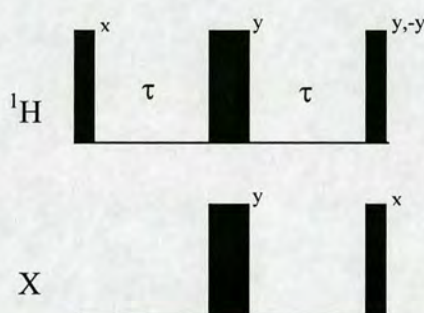


Figure 2.12: The INEPT pulse sequence, X denotes the heteronuclear channel. Thin and thick rectangles represent $\pi/2$ and π pulses respectively.

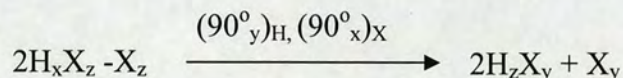
The three pulses on ^1H form a spin-echo during which the proton chemical shifts are refocused and do not have to be considered. Using the product spin operators, the state of a two-spin system H, X, prior to the pair of $\pi/2$ pulses is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{H}_z + \text{X}_z &\xrightarrow{(90^\circ_x)_\text{H}} -\text{H}_y + \text{X}_z \\
 -\text{H}_y + \text{X}_z &\xrightarrow{\pi J_{\text{HX}} 2\tau, (180^\circ_y)_\text{H}, (180^\circ_y)_\text{X}} -\text{H}_y \cos \pi J_{\text{HX}} 2\tau + 2\text{H}_x \text{X}_z \sin \pi J_{\text{HX}} 2\tau - \text{X}_z
 \end{aligned}$$

If the time, 2τ , for which these evolutions are allowed to occur is chosen to be equal to $1/2J_{\text{HX}}$, then the effect is to create a purely antiphase state of the HX coherence, thus:

$$2\text{H}_x \text{X}_z - \text{X}_z$$

Application of the final ^1H $\pi/2$ pulse will then create the zz ordered state, H_zX_z . From here, magnetization transfer to the heteronucleus is achieved by a further $\pi/2$ pulse on the X spin:



Applying rf pulses to the X spin will cause the equilibrium populations of X to be perturbed, creating magnetization which is represented here by the X_y term. To remove this signal, phase cycling or pulsed field gradients can be used, both of which will be discussed later.

When INEPT is part of a multi-dimensional experiment, an incrementable time delay is used, as explained earlier for homonuclear 2D experiments, to allow labeling of magnetization with the frequency of the heteronucleus. A π pulse is applied to ^1H in the middle of this period to refocus the HX coupling evolution. At the end of the labelling period, a reverse INEPT step is used to transfer the magnetization back to protons and to refocus the heteronuclear coupling to yield transverse ^1H magnetization labeled with the frequency of X (Ω_X):

$$H_y \cos \Omega_X t_1$$

This sequence is known as an HSQC (Heteronuclear Single Quantum Correlation) and is shown in Figure 2.13.

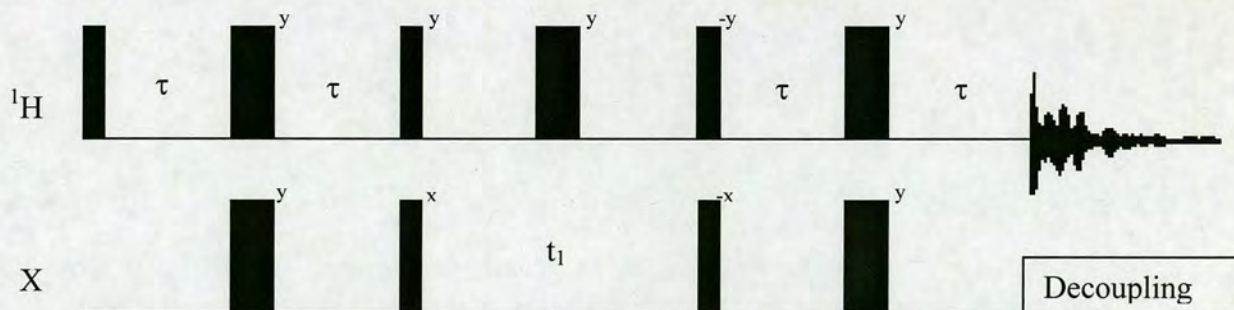


Figure 2.13: The HSQC pulse sequence

This yields a 2D spectrum with the directly detected protons in one dimension and the chemical shift of the heteronucleus in the other.

This building block is used extensively in protein NMR to transfer and label magnetization. Using multiple transfer steps in an experiment allows the correlation of several different frequencies and is the basis of the widely used 3D triple-resonance assignment experiments (Fesik & Zuderweg, 1988; Vis et al., 1994).

Combining polarization transfers and heteronuclear chemical shift labeling steps with a homonuclear correlation in the same experiment, also results in a 3D spectrum. In protein NMR, the combination of a NOESY experiment with HSQC is frequently employed to yield the 3D heteronuclear-edited NOESY which are the mainstay of protein structure determination by NMR (Zuiderweg et al., 1990; Wilmenga & Hilbers, 1990; Ikura et al., 1990; Zhang & Gmeiner, 1996). In such a 3D NOESY experiment the signals of a 2D NOESY spectrum are dispersed along a third axis in terms of a heteronuclear frequency, thus removing much of the signal overlap. Numerous experiments of this sort have been developed and used successfully in the structure determination of proteins. It is also possible, by a simple extension of this idea, to include a fourth dimension in these experiments so that, for example, all ^{13}C and ^{15}N frequencies can be acquired along with their ^1H - ^1H NOE correlations in a single, 4D experiment (Kay et al., 1990).

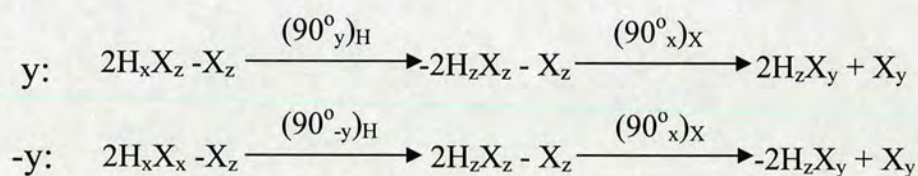
2.2 NMR Experimental Tools

The description of experiments given thus far has dealt only with the generation of the desired signal. In reality, performing these experiments requires the implementation of various procedures to suppress these undesired signals, thus ensuring that the complex and elegant sequences deliver the most beneficial results. This is of particular importance in NOESY where the crosspeaks are often very small and so creating artifact-free, well resolved, identifiable signals is paramount.

2.2.1 Coherence selection

In the course of an NMR experiment, as well as creating the desired coherences and achieving their correlation, other, unwanted coherences arise. Magnetization that has not followed the desired pathway must be suppressed or removed.

Phase cycling is a long-standing method of coherence selection (Hoult & Richards, 1975) and involves changing the phase of the rf pulses in the experiment. If this change affects the desired and undesired coherences differently, then phase cycling can be used as a means of coherence selection. In the INEPT example described previously (fig 2.12), phase cycling the final ^1H pulse by 180° (y, -y) will lead to the following situations:



Thus, subtracting the signal acquired in two scans will eliminate the X_y term but leave the desired HX coherence.

The second and more recent method of coherence selection is that of pulsed field gradients (PFGs). A PFG is a temporary magnetic field applied, typically for a few milliseconds, with a linear gradient along the length of the sample. The effect of this is to cause identical nuclei in the sample to experience a unique magnetic field depending upon their position in the NMR sample. Applying a PFG to transverse magnetization will therefore dephase it as shown in Figure 2.14 so that on summing over the whole sample no signal is observed. This can be reversed by applying a suitable rephasing PFG (Vuister et al., 1992; Zhang et al., 1994). Using PFGs in this way to select a particular coherence may result in a loss of half of the signal and is therefore not ideal. Alternatively, the PFG can be used to reject all the unwanted magnetization at a

convenient point in the pulse sequence (Bax & Pochapsky, 1992; Muhandiram et al., 1993). Such a situation exists when the desired magnetization resides in some state that will be unaffected by the action of the PFG e.g. the zz ordered state which is created prior to the polarization transfer pulse of INEPT. Similarly, to remove the X_y term in the INEPT, a $(\pi/2)_x$ pulse at the start of the experiment, followed by a PFG, will destroy the X magnetization and, thus, abolish the X_y term. This can reduce the number of phase cycling steps needed for signal selection. PFGs are also used during the NOE mix time to destroy any transverse magnetization and thus ensure that only the z -component remains.

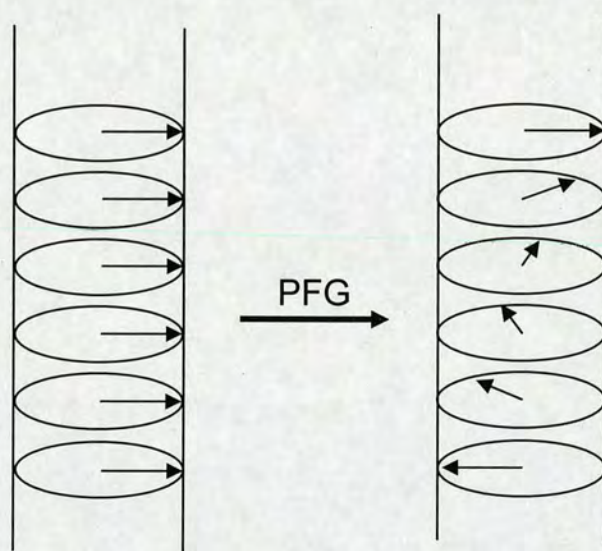


Figure 2.14: Effect on transverse magnetization of a PFG applied along the z -axis

2.2.2 Solvent Suppression

An essential feature of many protein NMR experiments is the suppression of the water signal that is four orders of magnitude more intense than the typical protein resonances

A classical method, which involves the use of PFGs, is known as WATERGATE (Piotto et al., 1992). This uses two PFGs which surround a $\pi/2$ - π - $\pi/2$ pulse train, where the $\pi/2$ pulses are water selective. The sequence is shown in Figure 2.15.

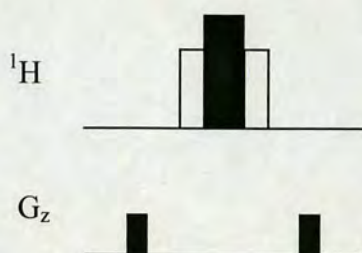


Figure 2.15: The WATERGATE sequence. White bars represent selective water pulses and G_z denotes the gradient channel

Overall, the magnetization of water has experienced a 360° (effectively zero) rotation while the protein proton signals experience only a 180° rotation. Equal PFGs applied around these pulses will therefore dephase the water signal whilst preserving (rephasing) the protein coherences. This technique works well for ^{15}N edited spectra as the signals of interest (amide protons) lie well away from the water resonance and, consequently, will be unaffected by the selective water pulses. For ^{13}C spectra, however, such treatment is unsuitable as these will contain signals around the water frequency which would be perturbed by the selective pulses. In these cases it is necessary to use other means of solvent suppression such as strong purging gradients combined with phase cycling and/or trim pulses (Majumdar & Zuiderweg, 1993).

2.2.3 Decoupling

By including ^{13}C and ^{15}N in the sample, scalar coupling between protons and these nuclei will exist as explained above. This is useful for correlation but, if left to evolve during labelling periods or acquisition, will lead to a loss in signal intensity and unnecessary signal splitting. Decoupling must be used, then, to remove these effects. During the labelling periods, application of a π pulse in the centre of the period to nuclei other than the one on which the magnetization resides will refocus their couplings and thus ensure that signal loss due to these couplings does not occur. Thus, NH and CH couplings can be removed. This approach can also be used to remove ^{13}C ' couplings to

other ^{13}C nuclei as the ^{13}C frequencies are sufficiently separated to allow their selective inversion.

During acquisition, coupling must be removed by other means. Application of a constant irradiating frequency, though simple, is impractical as it requires high power, has a narrow decoupling range and will heat the sample. Instead, decoupling sequences are used. These sequences consist of trains of pulses designed to take the spin which is to be decoupled through a cyclical motion, returning to the starting point at regular intervals. The decoupling sequence, GARP (Shaka et al., 1985), is commonly used and employs a computationally-optimised sequence of composite pulses to manipulate the spins to be decoupled. This allows the power used for the pulses to be smaller than for a constant saturation pulse and gives a wider decoupling range. For >600 MHz NMR spectrometers, however, even this range is insufficient to cover the whole spread of frequencies which are present and adiabatic pulses must be used to give the broad coverage which is required (Kupce & Freeman, 1995; Fu & Bodenhausen, 1995).

2.2.4 Selective Pulses

By reducing the amplitude of rf pulses, the effective fields around which nuclei precess is made offset-dependent. In this case, rather than exciting the entire range of frequencies, only the on-resonance nuclei will experience the nominal flip angles while the off-resonance nuclei progressively experience zero effective rotations.

Such pulses are called selective or 'soft' pulses and allow the selective manipulation of certain spins or groups of spins depending on their chemical shifts. Rectangular selective pulses have unfavourable excitation (and inversion) profiles, producing off-resonance excitation or inversion 'sidebands', but a variety of shaped selective pulses have been developed which have much cleaner profiles. In this project, Q3 and Q5 (Emsley & Bodenhausen, 1990) pulses have been used in triple resonance and NOESY experiments.

2.2.4 Constant Time and Variable Time Chemical Shift Labeling

In the experiments described above, the labeling of magnetization with the chemical shift of a nucleus is achieved by the use of an incremented time period. This method of labeling is known as variable time labeling. Labeling can also be achieved via another method known as constant-time labeling. In this approach, the labeling period is not fixed (constant) length, T , in all scans. The varied chemical shift evolution necessary for labeling the magnetization is achieved by applying a 180° pulse to the nuclei being labeled at different times during this evolution period. The scheme is represented in Figure 2.16.



Figure 2.16: Constant-time chemical shift labeling. The first scan has the π pulse in the centre. On subsequent scans, the pulse is shifted toward the start of the sequence.

At first, the 180° pulse sits in the centre of the labeling period and the chemical shift evolution is refocused. On successive scans, moving the 180° pulse (via incrementation of t_1) will allow chemical shift evolution to occur for a period equal to twice the offset of the 180° pulse. For ^{13}C labeling, the length of the period, T , is chosen such that the 1-bond homonuclear coupling, $^1J_{\text{CC}}$, which also evolved during this time is refocused at the end of the period.

This approach is useful for labeling ^{13}C resonances since, when using variable time, acquisition times must be kept short to ensure that the $^1J_{\text{CC}}$ couplings remain unresolved. Using constant time labeling therefore allows an extended sampling period to be used, increasing the resolution in this dimension. The longer time delay ($1/{}^1J_{\text{CC}}$) means that the scheme is more sensitive to relaxation losses, however, and so it is only suitable for nuclei with favourable relaxation properties e.g. methyl carbons.

2.2.5 Folding

The Nyquist condition states that a wave must be sampled twice in every cycle to correctly define its frequency. The resonance frequencies of nuclei in a sample exist over a certain range and it is generally desirable to detect all the frequencies in this range. The rate at which the FID signal must be sampled to achieve this is determined by the frequency or sweep width (SW) which essentially corresponds to the size or maximum frequency of the spectral 'window'. The time between sampling points is called the dwell time (DW) and, for complex data, is related to the sweep width via equation 2.6:

$$DW = \frac{1}{SW} \quad (2.6)$$

If the sweep width is chosen such that some resonances lie outside the spectral window, these resonances will still be excited in the experiment but the sampling of the frequencies in indirectly detected dimensions will be insufficient to correctly define their frequency. Signals with a frequency outside the spectral range will be undersampled. Thus the signals will still appear in the spectrum but at artificial frequencies. These signals are said to be folded or aliased. Since it is possible to predict their position, spectral folding can be used to reduce the sweep widths by folding signals into empty regions of the spectrum. This allows increased resolution and reduced acquisition times and is used extensively in ^{15}N and ^{13}C correlated experiments. Folding is not used in the direct dimension where digital filters are used to discard signals outside the spectral window.

2.3 Protein Structure Determination via NMR

Once a protein sample has been prepared, the process of protein structure determination via NMR can be split into four stages – (1) Acquisition of spectra (2) Resonance assignment, (3) NOESY assignment and (4) Structure calculation. These stages will often overlap as it is not necessary that one stage be completed before the next is undertaken. For example, due to the iterative nature of the structure calculation procedure, the last two stages are generally completed together. The whole process, from start to finish, generally has a timescale of several months to a year. This is one of the greatest disadvantages of solving protein structures by NMR and methods to reduce the time spent on each of these stages are continually being investigated. There follows a brief description of some of the more recent and significant advances which have been made in this area.

2.3.1 Acquisition of Spectra

For smaller proteins (ca. < 8kDa) 2D experiments usually provide sufficient information to allow a structure to be solved (Bax, 1989). Such experiments do not require isotopic enrichment and can be acquired in a few days which, when compared to the time requirements of the remaining stages, is a somewhat negligible consideration. Once it becomes necessary, for larger proteins, to use isotopic enrichment and to acquire 3D experiments, however, the time spent on data acquisition becomes much more significant - being on the order of several days for one 3D and, for 4D, a week may be necessary. Various methods have been developed to reduce these lengthy acquisition times and enhance the information content of spectra (Freeman & Kupce, 2003).

The large increase in acquisition time comes from the manner in which these multi-dimensional experiments are conducted – systematically investigating every point in the indirect frequency domains. Thus, every additional dimension will increase the

experiment time significantly. A substantial decrease in experiment time can be achieved by sampling the indirect dimensions simultaneously. Several experiments have been developed in which a third chemical shift is encoded into a multi-dimensional spectrum by labeling two nuclei together in the same dimension (Szyperski et al., 1993a,b; Simorre et al., 1994; Loehr & Rueterjans, 1995), resulting in spectra where the peak positions (in that dimension) are linear combinations of the chemical shifts of the nuclei labeled therein. This effectively results in reducing a nD experiment into $n-1D$ with the associated time gains and the method is known as reduced-dimensionality spectroscopy. The 3D HA CA N HN experiment, for example, is a 3D experiment correlating H^α frequencies to C^α N^H and H^N frequencies but with the C^α and N^H frequencies being labeled together. During t_1 , the magnetization is labeled with H^α shifts in the normal way but during t_2 magnetization is labelled with C^α shifts and then transferred to N^H and labeled with the N^H shifts. The result is a spectrum in which, at every H^α and H^N position, there exist two peaks at $\Omega_{C^\alpha} \pm \Omega_{N^H}$ as illustrated in Figure 2.17. Such nD spectra require much less acquisition time and afford superior resolution to their $n+1D$ counterparts.

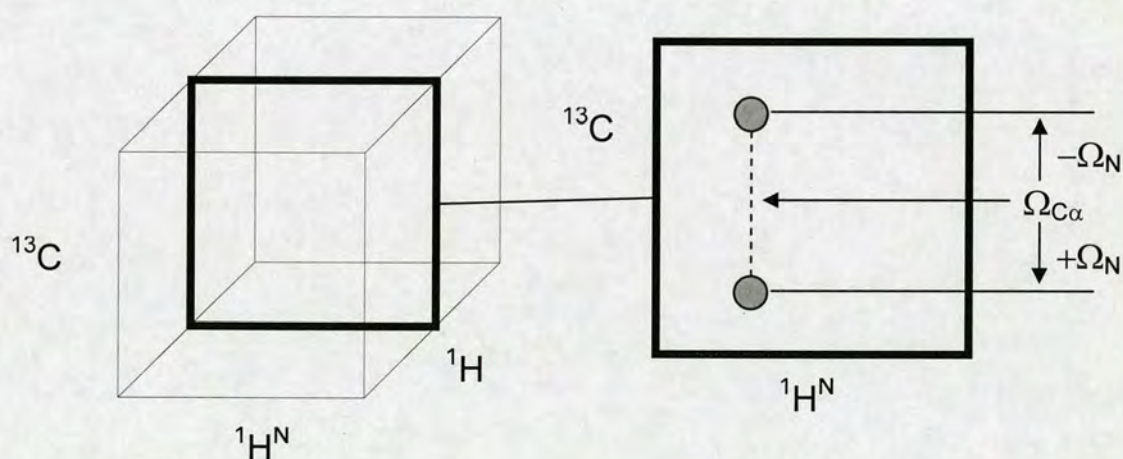


Figure 2.17: Cartoon representation of the reduced-dimensionality HA CA N HN experiment

More recently, an improvement upon this idea known as GFT NMR (Kim & Szyperski, 2002) has been used to combine several indirect dimensions into a single dimension in

such a way as to render the extraction of the individual shifts a relatively simple matter. Obviously, by combining several indirect dimensions, the additional chemical shift information of the indirect dimensions is 'locked' together and must be extracted somehow.

Deconvolution of the signal is achieved by recording the spectrum several times and varying the phases with which the magnetization transfer pulses are applied. After the first evolution period (t_1), magnetization which is transferred to the second evolution period will be modulated by the chemical shift evolution which occurred in t_1 , $\cos\Omega t_1$. Similarly, the magnetization proceeding into evolution period, n , will be modulated by $\cos\Omega_1 t_1 \dots \cos\Omega_{n-1} t_{n-1}$. In the simplest scheme, the incrementation steps are equal as well as simultaneous, giving $\cos\Omega_1 t \dots \cos\Omega_n t$. If any of the transfer pulses is shifted by 90° , however, then the modulation function becomes $\sin\Omega_{n-1} t$. Thus, by appropriate phase shifting of these pulses, all combinations of sine and cosine modulation can be obtained. Fourier transform of these signals yields in-phase chemical shift multiplets for the cosine terms and antiphase multiplets for the sine terms. Additional spectra, in which one, some or all but one of the indirect dimensions are 'switched off' by allowing no evolution in these dimensions are also acquired to resolve ambiguities due to overlap. By combining the appropriate spectra, or performing a G-matrix transformation, all n chemical shifts may be obtained. This procedure is illustrated in Figure 2.18. Thus, it becomes possible to acquire previously exotic 5D experiments in a matter of hours. With each additional dimension, the sensitivity will be decreased, however, imposing an eventual sensitivity-limit on the number of dimensions which may be combined.

A similar idea involves simultaneous labeling of ^{15}N and ^{13}C nuclei in a single dimension but with the difference that magnetization is transferred to each nucleus simultaneously, not consecutively and so, rather than combining the chemical shift information, both frequency domains exist on the same axis - effectively obtaining two or more heteronuclear-edited experiments at once (Sørensen, 1990; Farmer II, 1991;

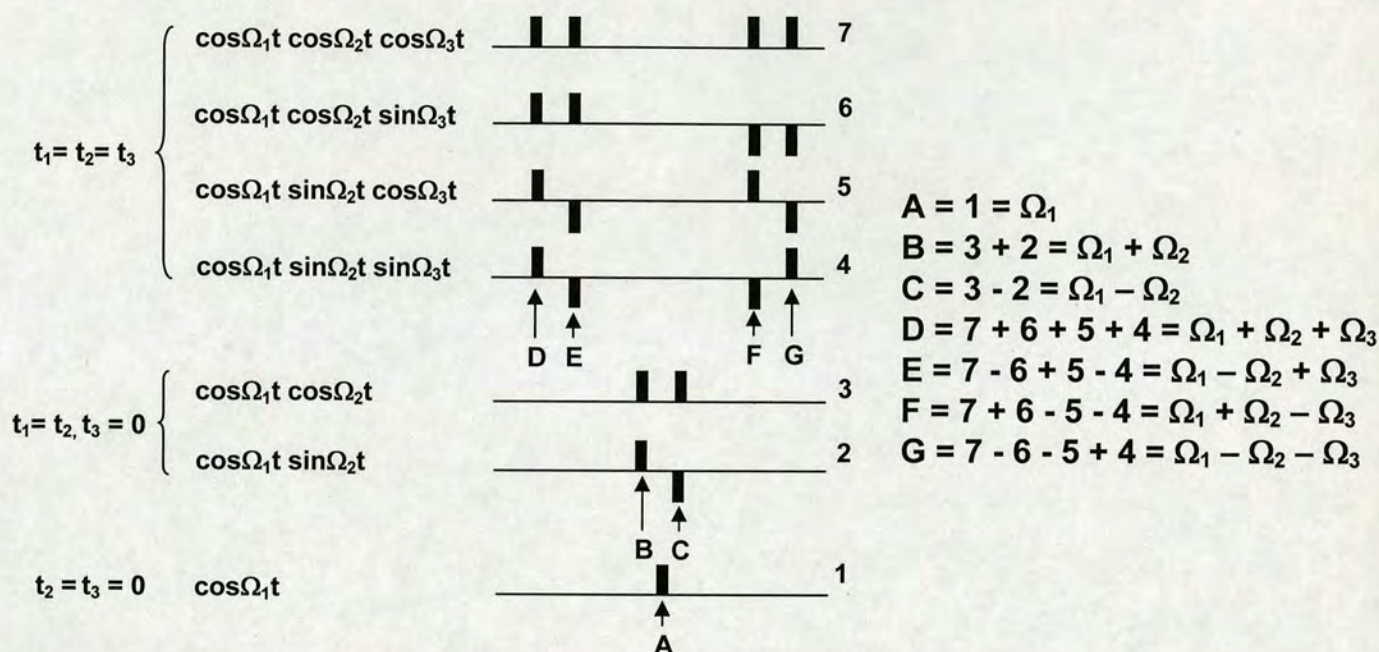


Figure 2.18: Stick figure representation of the multiplets obtained in a GFT NMR experiment in which three dimensions ($\Omega_1, \Omega_2, \Omega_3$) are recorded simultaneously.

Boelens et al., 1994). Such experiments are known as time-shared or simultaneous acquisition experiments. Applying this to 3D NOESY experiments (Pascal et al., 1994) gives an experiment where the initial magnetization is transferred via NOE to both ^{13}C - and ^{15}N -bound protons, in effect combining a 3D ^{15}N -NOESY and 3D ^{13}C -NOESY spectrum in a single experiment.

This has also been applied to resonance assignment (Vis et al., 1994) and to 4D experiments (Sorensen, 1990; Farmer, 1994). The disadvantage of such methods lies in the differing sizes of e.g. $^1J_{\text{CH}}$ and $^1J_{\text{NH}}$ couplings. These require different evolution times in the INEPT steps for optimal magnetization transfer, resulting in compromise delay times and, thus, signal loss. Furthermore, the rapidly-evolving ^{13}C - ^{13}C couplings which limit ^{13}C labeling periods mean that ^{15}N -labelling periods must be attenuated to some extent when labeling is performed simultaneously.

Hadamard spectroscopy (Kupce & Freeman, 2003) is another method which addresses the fact that comprehensive sampling is not necessary and relies upon the fact that multi-dimensional spectra contain large regions with no information. In Hadamard spectroscopy, specific chemical sites are excited simultaneously (their chemical shifts having been previously obtained) using an array of selective pulses in place of the hard excitation and magnetization transfer pulses normally used in multi-dimensional experiments. The individual responses from each site are encoded using a Hadamard matrix – matrices with orders of $4n$, where n is an integer, consisting of plus and minus signs which code for the phase of excitation pulses or the presence of inversion pulses. The overall effect is to change the sign of the final NMR signal for that site. One column of the matrix is required for each individual site and although the number of sites may well be less than the columns of the nearest matrix, the full matrix must be employed. The resulting FIDs are composites of the FIDs from each individual site. In order to decode this information, these FIDs are combined in such a way that only the signal from a particular site will add constructively, all others cancelling due to equal contributions of signals with opposite signs. This principle is summarised in Figure 2.19 for a system in which four sites are selectively excited.

	Site				
	A	B	C	D	
Scan 1	+	+	+	+	
Scan 2	+	-	+	-	Site B = 1 + 3 - 2 - 4
Scan 3	+	+	-	-	
Scan 4	+	-	-	+	

Figure 2.19: Hadamard matrix for a system in which four sites are excited (A, B, C and D) and the appropriate combination of FIDs which would yield the pure response from site B

Acquisition times for multi-dimensional experiments can be reduced by several orders of magnitude compared to conventional experiments. Of course, the requirement that chemical shifts already be known is something of a disadvantage, particularly for larger

proteins where such information is less easily obtained. Application of this technique is thought to be more useful for binding studies of proteins with known structure and complete resonance assignments where only the signals of interest need be recorded. However, a modification of this idea using band-selective, rather than frequency-selective, pulses has been used (Brutscher, 2004) to simplify 2D spectra used for resonance assignment of a protein by associating the signals of a ^{15}N -HSQC with four different ^{13}CO bands, essentially dispersing the 2D spectrum along a third axis. This idea has been used in combination with reduced-dimensionality experiments to effect rapid resonance assignment of proteins.

Another, conceptually more accessible, mode of reducing acquisition times is presented by the projection-reconstruction method (Kupce & Freeman, 2004). Viewing a 3D spectrum as a cube, projection-reconstruction amounts to projecting the 3D spectrum onto 2D planes using varying angles of incidence, α , with respect to the F_1F_3 plane, or, more simply, taking ‘snapshots’ from various viewpoints about the cube. The entire spectrum can then be reconstructed by generating the array of peaks which fits all of the projections. Practically, the projections are obtained by simultaneously varying (at different rates) the labeling periods (t_1 , t_2) of the indirect dimensions. The time increments, t_1 and t_2 , are related to the angle of the projection, α , by the following equations:

$$t_1 = t \cos \alpha$$

$$t_2 = t \sin \alpha$$

Thus, when $t_2=0$, $\alpha=0^\circ$ and the projection is the F_1F_3 plane. Similarly, for $t_1=0$, $\alpha=90^\circ$ and the F_2F_3 plane is obtained as shown in Figure 2.20. Other projections at different angles may be obtained by altering t_1 and t_2 . Fourier transformation of planes acquired with non-zero t_1 and t_2 yield two projections corresponding to angles of $+\alpha$ and $-\alpha$ with respect to the F_1F_3 plane similar to the sum and difference modulation of shifts in the reduced dimensionality experiments.

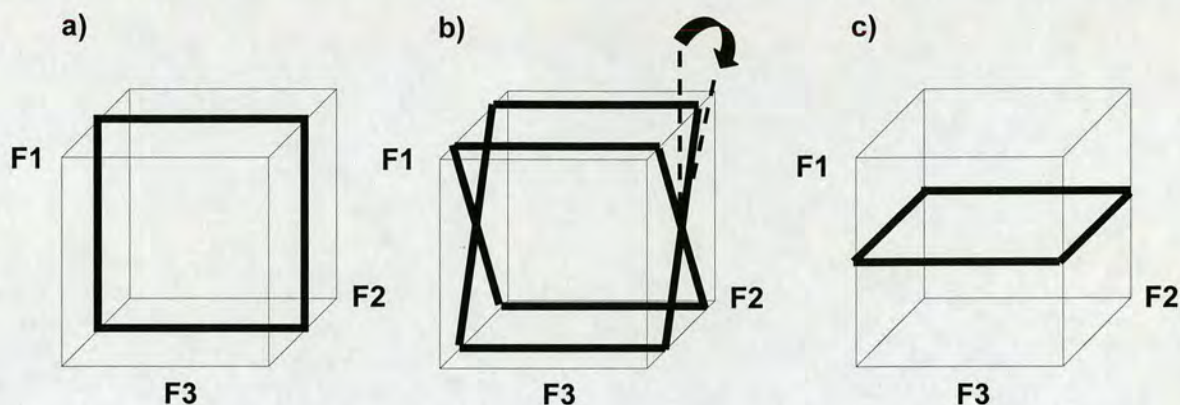


Figure 2.20: Representations of the plane projections obtained using a) $t_2 = 0$, b) $t_1 \neq 0$, $t_2 \neq 0$ and c) $t_2 = 0$

Sufficient projections at appropriate angles will thus yield the entire spectrum in far less time than using conventional methods. The resulting spectrum, however, is identical to that which would have been obtained via linear sampling methods, thus facilitating ease of use.

The greatest reduction in experiment times have been achieved by performing entire experiments in a single scan (Frydman et al., 2002). In this method, rather than exciting the entire sample uniformly and recording chemical shift evolutions over the whole sample by increasing evolution times in consecutive experiments, the single-scan experiment transforms this time separation into a spatial separation by dividing the sample in a number of, effectively, discrete sections, each with a unique t_1 value. This separation is achieved by applying a selective pulse in the presence of strong PFGs which results in only a small section of the sample being excited. Sections of the sample are excited progressively by repeating this initial excitation block whilst incrementing the frequency of the selective pulse. Owing to the time delays between the excitation periods, successive sections evolve with decreasing values of t_1 . Thus, the same spins will have evolved for different lengths of time in each slice. Following excitation, a second PFG of opposite polarity is used to remove any precession due to the first PFG so that spins in all slices will have evolved only under their chemical shifts. During

acquisition, the application of another PFG is used to return the spins in all the slices to their original state – essentially undoing the chemical shift evolution which has occurred and ‘refocussing’ their signals thereby creating an ‘echo’ in the detected FID. Each nucleus has evolved under its own chemical shift, however, and so the time taken to refocus each spin will differ according to its chemical shift, resulting in ‘echoes’ occurring at intervals equal to the chemical shift of a particular spin. Thus, the echoes in the FID represent the appearance of the spectrum in the F_1 dimension without any Fourier transformation.

This approach is limited to concentrated samples, however – typically small organic molecules. The sub-millimolar concentrations used in protein NMR are insufficient at present to yield sufficient quality 2D spectra in a single scan.

It should be noted that, while all of the above techniques have been shown to provide significant time gains, their use has been restricted to resonance assignment experiments. Their application to NOESY experiments is much more difficult due to the large dynamic range and high signal density of such experiments.

2.3.2 Resonance Assignment

Depending upon the size of the protein the process of resonance assignment may require weeks to perhaps months of time spent working with spectra. The techniques outlined above have been used to alleviate some of the heavy time demands by providing more information in each experiment to allow faster and more certain assignments to be made. Other developments in this area have pursued the goal of automating the (sequential) assignment process (Moseley & Montelione, 1999). Arguably the largest portion of the time required is spent manually establishing the connectivities between resonances of a 2D root spectrum via some set of 3D experiments and subsequently mapping these assignments onto the protein sequence. A more full description of this process is given in section 3.3. Manual assignment has been the preferred method as it allows the user to

exercise judgement in the identification of spin systems and in making allowances for possible missing peaks or other non-ideal features of the spectrum. Nevertheless, several automated programs have been developed and shown to be effective at rapidly providing accurate assignments. The various programs operate in differing ways but the overall principle is the same in each case – 1) identify the peaks of a spectrum 2) group the peaks into pseudo-residues 3) identify the most likely residue types for a pseudoresidue 4) link pseudoresidues together 5) map the links onto the protein sequence. A comparison of various automated assignment software (Wang et al., 2005) showed the recent MARS (Jung & Zweckstetter, 2004) and CASA programs to be most effective at achieving correct resonance assignments when tested on a range of proteins. These programs have the additional benefit (compared to the others tested) of providing a confidence score for the assignments made. Assignment times are reduced to a matter of minutes but in all cases, complete assignments were not achieved and some erroneous assignments were made. Application of these procedures is therefore semi-automatic, requiring manual input to ensure the process is proceeding effectively and to eliminate potential errors. Often this will result in much more modest time gains. Manual assignment therefore remains the most commonly used method thus far.

While the majority of automated resonance assignment programs focus on the backbone or sequential assignment process, the somewhat more difficult process of automating sidechain assignment has also been reported recently (Masse et al., 2006). Working from an assigned backbone, this program utilises emulation of human logic (via Relative Hypothesis Prioritization) to mimic the detailed decision making processes involved in this procedure. High accuracy of sidechain assignments was achieved for >80% of residues of two medium size (~15 kDa) proteins.

2.3.3 NOESY Assignment & Structure Calculation

Working with NOESY spectra and calculating structures is the most time-intensive stage of protein structure determination via NMR and there has been much work in this area to

improve assignment procedures and develop best practice (Nilges & O'Donoghue, 1998). NOESY spectra contain many thousands of peaks which must be picked and assigned. This process is far from perfect, however and, on completing the NOESY assignment, the first rounds of structure calculation cannot return good quality structures. This is due to a variety of factors such as the potential for erroneous assignments which will distort any structure calculation away from the correct fold; a lack of sufficient restraints to yield a structure; too high a degree of ambiguity in the assignment of peaks; incorrect classification of the peak intensities. Thus, the process must be an iterative one in which the spectroscopist continually returns to the raw data to verify and amend assignments as the calculation protocol identifies potentially incorrect restraints, or to obtain further experimental data if necessary.

For the problem of assignment ambiguity, there exist a variety of programs to aid in converting ambiguous restraints into unambiguous ones. For many of these, the process involves using initial structures calculated using manually assigned peaks. These structures may then be used to edit or filter the ambiguous restraints by removing those assignments which agree poorly with these structures.

The program ARIA (Nilges et al., 1997) is a widely used implementation of such a process and has been incorporated into both CNS and X-PLOR structure generation programs (Brunger et al., 1998; Brunger, 1992). Here, the intensity of an ambiguously assigned peak is assumed to be the superposition of all the various contributions from each possible assignment. The contributions are weighted according to the r^{-6} values obtained from the initial structures. By restricting the number of assignments to those that contribute more than a particular, user-defined fraction of the intensity of a peak, the low level, improbable assignments may be eliminated, leading to more precise structures in the next calculation performed with these filtered restraints.

A similar strategy is employed by the program NOAH (Mumenthaler et al., 1997) which uses initial structures to calculate, for each ambiguously assigned crosspeak, the

percentage of structures in which a particular assignment is violated. The difference in comparison to ARIA being that NOAH creates a restraint for every item in an ambiguous assignment, whereas ARIA provides a single assignment with multiple contributions. Again, those assignments which are violated in more than a set fraction of the structures are discarded. Both of these approaches perform well and have been shown to produce good quality structures from a relatively small number of initial, unambiguous manually assigned NOESY crosspeaks.

A more recent development in this area is the program CANDID (Herrmann et al., 2002) which attempts to remove the need for an initial structure ensemble which the previous programs relied upon. The principal step in achieving this goal is the introduction of some further assessment of the validity of ambiguous NOE assignments prior to performing the initial structure calculations. Ambiguous NOEs are ranked according to their compliance with various criteria including proximity of chemical shifts, symmetry-related crosspeaks and principally, in the first instance, the idea of ‘network anchoring’. This idea states that all correct assignments in an NOE dataset should be self-consistent and thus any assignment which is correct should be supported by further assignments within the dataset. For an assignment that links atom 1 to atom 2, for example, this amounts to searching the dataset for further restraints which link atom 1 and atom 2 via some third atom. Restraints which score poorly on this count are more likely to be erroneous assignments and can therefore be discarded. In order to reduce the impact of incorrect restraints which have passed this filtering process, constraint combination is also used whereby long range restraints (those that have the greatest effect upon the structure) are combined together in virtual restraints to increase the likelihood that at least one of the items in each of the resulting ambiguous restraints will be correct. This treatment relies upon the fact that provided at least one of the items of an ambiguous assignment is correct, the structure calculation will not be distorted by other, incorrect contributions. Once a structure has been calculated, this is also included as a means of removing incorrect restraints in subsequent rounds. Using only NOESY peak lists and chemical shift lists as input in structure calculations, CANDID provided >85 % of

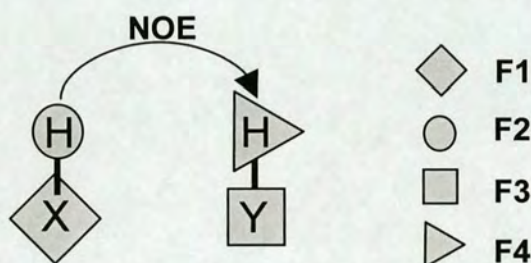
assignments in solving the structures of four proteins, the largest of which was a 135 residue protein, calculated using 3D ^{15}N -edited and ^{13}C -edited NOESY spectra along with two 2D NOESY experiments (acquired in H_2O and D_2O). These assignments yielded structures with low rmsd's ($<1\text{\AA}$ for all backbone atoms). In addition, the use of network anchoring and constraint combination was found to significantly improve the quality of structures at every stage in the process.

A more novel approach to solving protein structures is presented by the CLOUDS protocol (Grishaev & Llinas, 2002a). This treatment eschews the traditional NOE assignment and structure calculation route and provides structures using only NOE peak positions (chemical shifts). The MIDGE (Madrid et al., 1991) protocol is used to specify which protons show an NOE to one another and the distance, derived from crosspeak intensity. This information, along with Van der Waals repulsions as the only other restraint, is then used to generate a proton distribution or 'cloud' via simulated annealing of a proton gas. Numerous calculations are performed to generate a family of clouds, similar to the structure ensembles provided by traditional NMR structure methods. Importantly, the result is a proton-only description of the molecule, not dissimilar to the electron density maps of heavy atoms obtained in X-ray crystallography. The benefits of this procedure are that it requires no assignments, eliminating a large, time-consuming part of the calculation process and thus very quickly yields information on the protein surface. A protocol for transforming this proton density map into a full molecular structure has also been designed and successfully implemented (Grishaev & Llinas, 2002b) giving final structures which show good agreement with those previously calculated via X-ray and NMR.

2.3.4 Using Complementary Experiments to Reduce Ambiguity

The problem of ambiguity is so common because, in any NOE interaction, a 3D experiment can only provide three out of four relevant chemical shifts. Ambiguity can therefore be reduced by acquiring 4D NOESY spectra. In 4D NOESY experiments,

illustrated schematically in Figure 2.21, resonance frequencies of all four atoms of interest are correlated with one another in the spectrum – the chemical shift of both interacting protons and their heteronuclei - resulting in a much more accurate assignment (Grzesiek et al., 1995; Muhandiram et al., 1993; Morshauser & Zuiderweg, 1999; Vuister et al., 1993). 4D spectra require much more time to acquire, however, and, for larger proteins (>15kDa) the sensitivity of these experiments is significantly compromised due to the relaxation properties of such proteins (Kay et al., 1992).



4D X,Y-edited NOESY

Figure 2.21: Schematic representation of a 4D NOESY experiment

This leads to a loss of the weaker NOE's, which are so important in delivering accurate, good quality structures. Limited sampling of the indirectly detected dimensions of 4D experiments will also decrease the resolution and, thus, increase the ambiguity of the assignments. An alternative to this approach is to split the 4D information into two 3D experiments – a traditional, heteronuclear-edited NOESY spectrum and another spectrum in which the chemical shift of the heteronucleus (which was not labeled in the original experiment) is labeled in t_1 . This idea has found several implementations thus far (Fienkel et al., 1990; Diercks et al., 1999; Jerala et al., 1995; Uhrin et al., 2000; Xia et al., 2003) and is illustrated schematically in Figure 2.22.

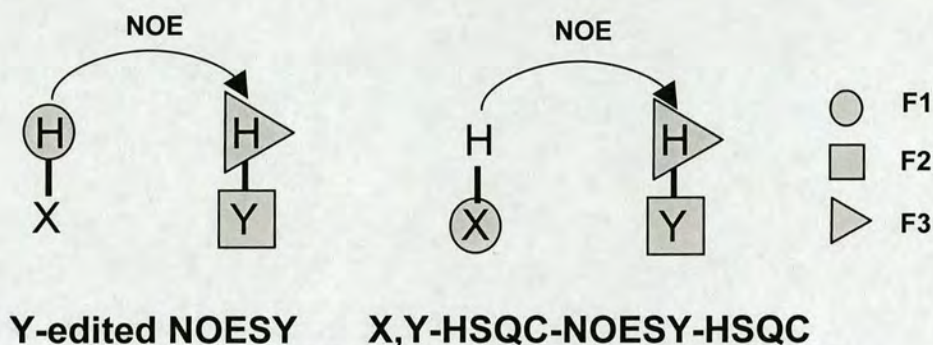


Figure 2.22: Schematic representations of a standard 3D edited NOESY and the associated complementary experiment

Thus it is possible to obtain all four chemical shifts in two experiments, maximising the sensitivity and resolution in each experiment. It is recognized that, compared to a 4D experiment, this approach still leaves room for ambiguity as the link between the F_1 ^1H and X resonances is not firm. It is the focus of this project to establish whether, despite this practical weakness, this method can provide qualitatively faster progress toward protein structures. Furthermore, it is also the intention to conduct a more comprehensive investigation of various ‘standard’ and complementary experiments to discern those combinations which prove most useful for increasing the efficiency of protein structure determination by NMR and to provide a quantitative appraisal of the differences between the two methods.

To this end, a full description of the two approaches – the standard method (referred to as Method 1) and the new method (referred to as Method 2) is given below.

Method 1

Assigning a 3D NOESY spectrum consists of picking the peaks and then, for a particular peak, assigning a nucleus to each of the three dimensions of that peak. The assignment possibilities in each dimension are determined by the chemical shift list of the protein

which is obtained via the process of resonance assignment (see 3.3). Since a peak will have a particular ppm value associated with each of its dimensions, items from the chemical shift list with chemical shift values within a predefined range may be considered as valid assignment possibilities for that dimension. Ideally, there will be only one possibility for every dimension of every peak. This is seldom the case, however, owing to the high degree of degeneracy which exists in the chemical shifts of such large molecules.

In general, assigning two of the dimensions is a relatively trivial matter owing to the fact that the nuclei found in these dimensions are bonded to one another e.g. the $^1\text{H}^{\text{N}}$ and $^{15}\text{N}^{\text{H}}$ dimensions in a 3D ^{15}N -edited-NOESY. Thus, even though more than one assignment possibility exists for one of these dimensions, only those possibilities which correspond to bonded nuclei can be considered valid, greatly reducing the number of possibilities. More usually, the assignment of 3D NOESY spectra will proceed with an assigned 2D spectrum as its root e.g. a ^{15}N - ^1H -HSQC. Every peak in the strip of the 3D spectrum extending from a particular peak in the 2D spectrum can then be assumed to have the same assignment in the dimensions it shares with the 2D spectrum. The assignment possibilities in the remaining third dimension are determined by proximity of chemical shift but, in this case, with no information about the bound heteronucleus. Thus, while it may be the case that only a single assignment possibility is obtained, depending upon the size of the protein, it is more likely that there will be a number of possibilities, none of which can be regarded as more or less valid than the others. This difficulty can be addressed by the process of searching for symmetry related peaks. As noted for the 2D NOESY, for any NOE interaction, there will exist two crosspeaks due to the fact that both protons which share the interaction will receive magnetization from each other. For any potential interaction indicated by the assignment possibilities for a peak, that assignment can be confirmed by the existence of a symmetry related peak. Any assignment possibility which does not have a supporting symmetry related peak may be considered an invalid possibility and therefore disregarded. Of course, when working with a heteronuclear edited NOESY, if a crosspeak arises due to an interaction with a

proton bound to a different type of heteronucleus, the symmetry peak will not exist in that spectrum. For example, in the ^{15}N -edited NOESY spectrum, the symmetry-related peaks for $^1\text{H}^{\text{N}}\text{-}^1\text{H}^{\text{C}}$ NOEs will be found in the ^{13}C -edited NOESY spectrum. This process is illustrated in Figure 2.23.

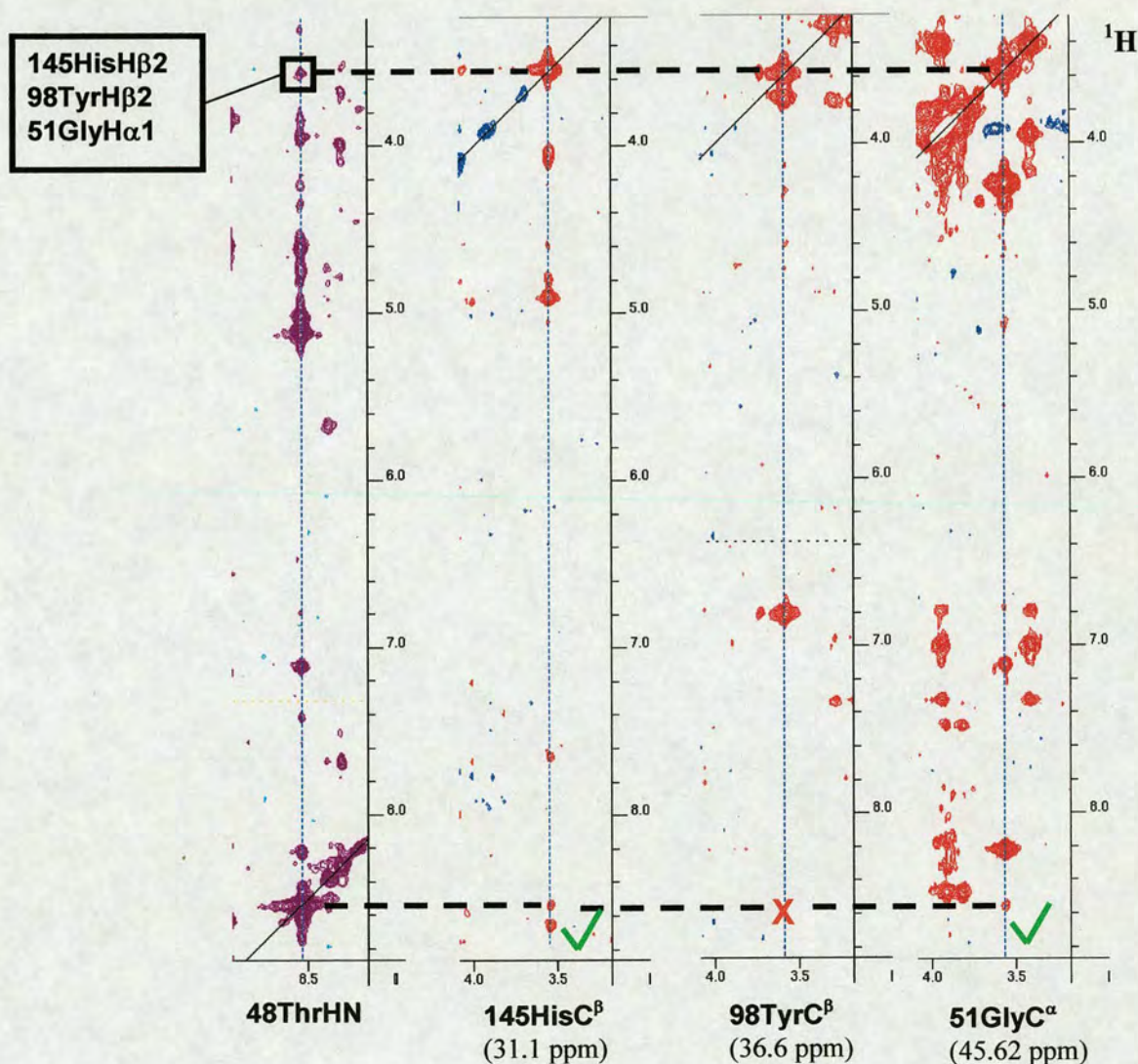


Figure 2.23: Looking for symmetry related peaks. ^{15}N -edited NOESY strip for Thr 48 of β -lactoglobulin B (purple), with strips of the ^{13}C -edited NOESY spectrum at the F_2 positions indicated. Each ^{13}C -edited NOESY strip is examined to see whether a symmetry peak exists. In this case, there are potential symmetry peaks for two of the three assignment possibilities of the boxed ^{15}N -edited NOESY peak.

Thus, the method may be summarised as follows

1 Obtain assignment possibilities

2 Look for symmetry peaks

3 Assign / do not assign

While this certainly reduces the degree of ambiguity, in many cases resulting in an unambiguous assignment, it may still be the case that even after searching for symmetry related peaks, there will remain several valid assignment options, as is the case in the example given in Figure 2.23, where there are potential symmetry related peaks for two of the three of the assignment possibilities for the peak in question. While it may be the case that both of these nuclei share an NOE with the nuclei in question, it may also be the case that one of the symmetry peaks is in fact due to some other NOE interaction and has been mistakenly identified due to the chemical shift degeneracy mentioned previously. It is also possible that the region in which a symmetry related peak should exist will be very crowded or otherwise non-ideal, making the identification of a symmetry related peak impossible.

Method 2

In an effort to alleviate this problem, the use of additional NOESY experiments can be employed to further reduce the number of ambiguous assignments. As described above, these experiments label the heteronucleus of the NOE partner in t_1 . Examining equivalent strips of the 'standard' NOESY experiments and the complementary NOESY experiments, gives a further measure of the validity of a particular assignment. This can be used to 'filter' assignment possibilities prior to looking for symmetry related peaks. This idea is illustrated in Figure 2.24 using the same peak as in the previous Figure 2.23. Whereas checking for symmetry related peaks did not produce an ambiguous assignment for the peak under examination, using the complementary NOESY experiment shows that only one of the assignment possibilities is valid and the others may be discarded

thus producing an unambiguous assignment for that peak. In this case, looking for symmetry peaks could be deemed unnecessary, however, this process is included in the method in all instances to provide confirmation of those assignments which are obtained and, as will be discussed later (section 5.2) to reduce the potential for erroneous assignments.

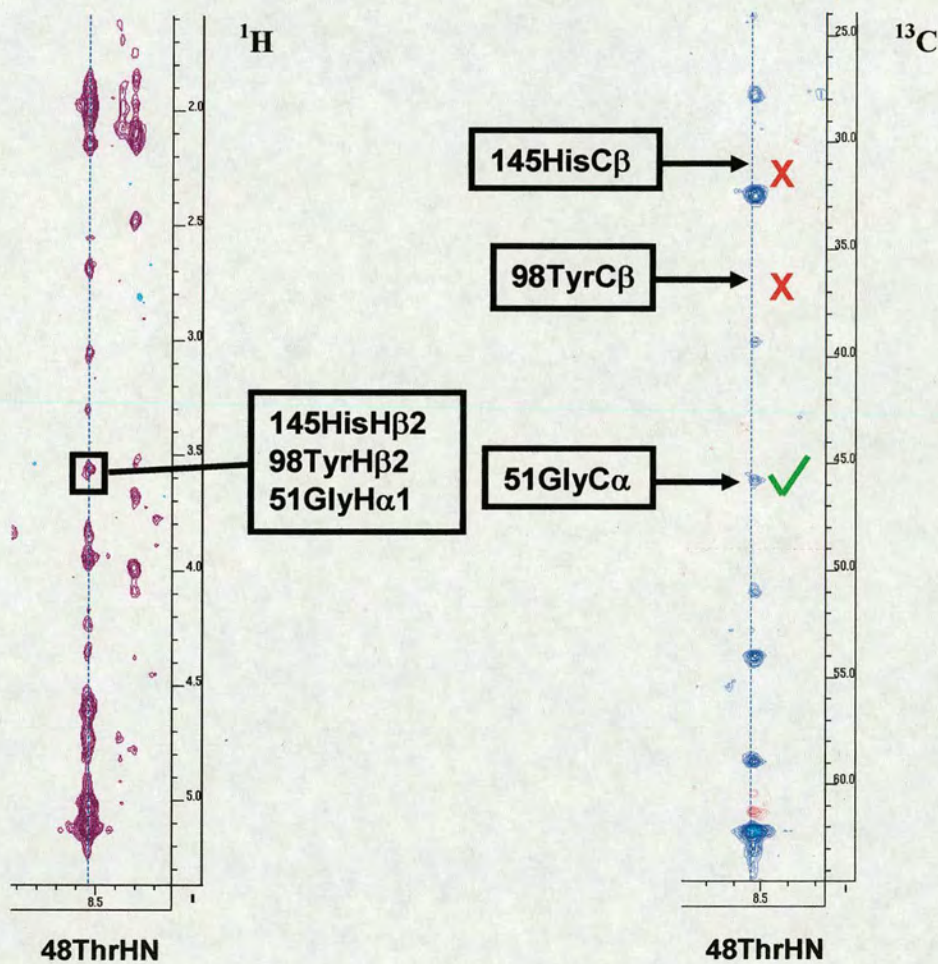


Figure 2.24: ^{15}N -edited NOESY strip with the equivalent strip of the complementary ^{13}C , ^{15}N -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC experiment.

Chapter 3

Materials & Methods

3.1 Samples

3.1.1 β -Lactoglobulin B

A ^{13}C , ^{15}N -labelled, monomeric sample of BlgB was obtained from and prepared by Patrick Edwards, New Zealand Dairy Research Institute. The sidechain nuclei of the Trp residues were not isotopically enriched with ^{13}C . The sample was prepared using 50 mM NaOAc buffer of pH 2.6 in 10% D_2O , 90% H_2O (v/v). The protein concentration was approximately 1.5 mM.

3.1.2 C4BP~1,2

A ^{13}C , ^{15}N -labelled sample of C4BP~1,2 was obtained from Linda Mark, Lund University, Sweden. Sample preparation was carried out by Huw Jenkins, University of Edinburgh, using 20mM NaOAc buffer (pH 4.5, 0.05% NaN_3) and 10% D_2O , 90% H_2O (v/v) resulting in a protein concentration of ca. 1.5 mM.

3.2 Processing of Spectra

The AZARA program (Boucher, 1993) was used to process spectra. The AZARA processing script contains the various commands used to improve the quality of the final spectrum and the necessary data-handling operations required according to the method

by which the spectrum was acquired. These included zerofilling the data once to the current or next nearest 2^n points, using sinebell squared functions to remove truncation of FIDs and employing trigonometric baseline corrections. Where used, the 0, 0 zero and first order phasing of indirect dimensions made it necessary to scale the first point of the FID in these dimensions by 0.5 to remove the DC offset of the spectrum.

3.2.1 Maximum entropy

Maximum entropy processing (Gull & Daniell, 1978) is an alternative to the Fourier transform method of obtaining a spectrum and is useful for improving the resolution and reducing noise in indirectly detected dimensions of multi-dimensional NMR experiments (Sibisi et al., 1984). This method operates by randomly producing large numbers of spectra and inverse Fourier transforming them to obtain FIDs. The FIDs are compared to the experimental FID to assess the closeness of fit. The FID which best fits the experimental FID and contains the smallest amount of information (and, therefore, the maximum entropy) is then used.

3.3 Resonance Assignment

The resonance assignment of double labelled samples requires assigning all, or as many as possible, of the ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{15}N resonances of the protein. For this purpose numerous triple-resonance 3D experiments have been devised which correlate these nuclei, either via purely INEPT-based experiments or experiments which employ spin-lock sequences. These experiments are commonly based upon a 2D ^{15}N - ^1H -HSQC root with the third spectral dimension being used to label ^{13}C or ^1H nuclei. The various stages of resonance assignment and the experiments used in this project are outlined here.

3.3.1 Backbone Assignment

The first stage of resonance assignment involves identifying which of the ^{15}N - ^1H -HSQC peaks belong to which residue of the protein, essentially establishing the connectivities between the signals of this spectrum. Two 3D experiments were used for this purpose, the CBCA(CO)NH (Grzesiek & Bax, 1992) and HNCACB (Wittekind & Mueller, 1993) experiments. The CBCA(CO)NH experiment correlates the N^{H} and H^{N} chemical shifts of residue i with the C^{β} and C^{α} chemical shifts of residue $i-1$. The HNCACB experiment provides the same correlations but, additionally, includes the C^{α} and C^{β} shifts of residue i . This difference is due to the differing magnetization transfer pathways in these experiments. In the CBCA(CO)NH, following transfer from H^{Ni} to N^{Hi} , magnetization is transferred from N^{Hi} to $\text{C}^{\alpha i-1}$ by stepping through C'^{i-1} via the $^1\text{J}_{\text{NC}'}$ and $^1\text{J}_{\text{C}'\text{C}\alpha}$ couplings. In the HNCACB experiment, stepping through C' does not occur and instead, following initial transfer from H^{Ni} to N^{Hi} , the magnetization is transferred via the $^1\text{J}_{\text{C}'\text{C}\alpha}$ and $^2\text{J}_{\text{C}'\text{C}\alpha}$ couplings to *both* $\text{C}^{\alpha i}$ and $\text{C}^{\alpha i-1}$ respectively. In both cases, the magnetization is subsequently transferred to C^{β} . Thus, a strip of the CBCA(CO)NH spectrum (at a particular ^{15}N and ^1H position) will contain two peaks and the equivalent strip of the HNCACB spectrum will contain four peaks as illustrated in Figure 3.1.

The CBCA(CO)NH can therefore be used to indicate which of the four HNCACB peaks are from residue i and which from residue $i-1$. The connectivities between the ^{15}N - ^1H -HSQC peaks can then be established by matching $\text{C}^{\alpha i}$ and $\text{C}^{\beta i}$ shifts of a strip with $\text{C}^{\alpha i-1}$ and $\text{C}^{\beta i-1}$ shifts of another strip. This principle is illustrated in Figure 3.2.

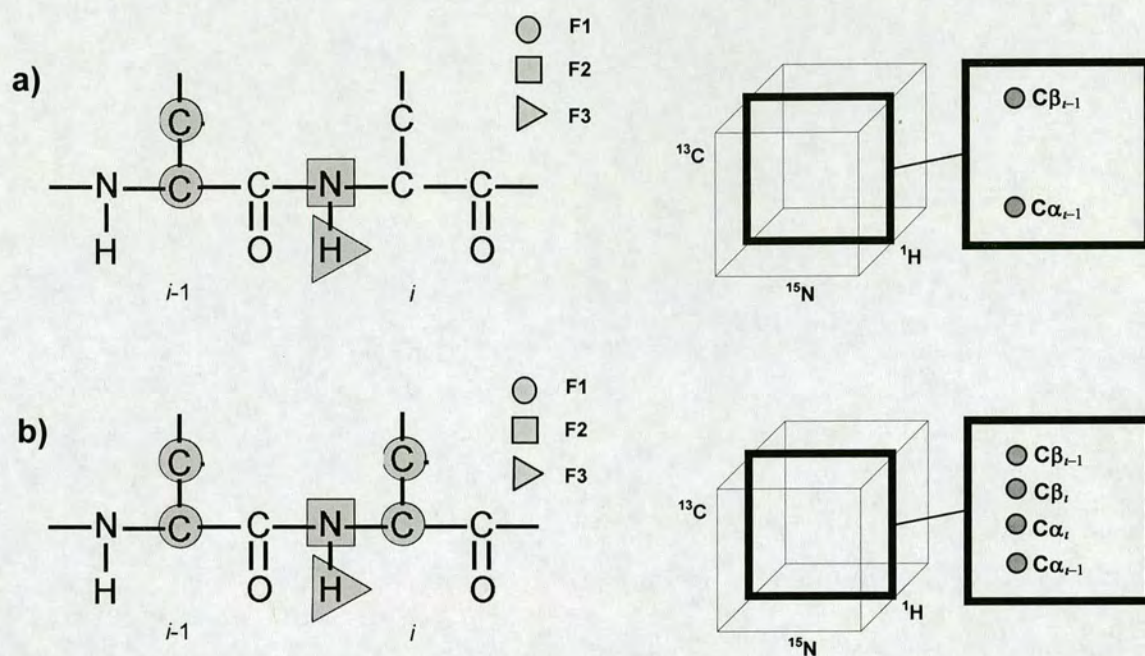


Figure 3.1 Representations of a) the CBCACONH experiment and b) the HNCACB experiment. In each case, the nuclei labeled in each dimension are shown along with a cartoon of a particular strip.

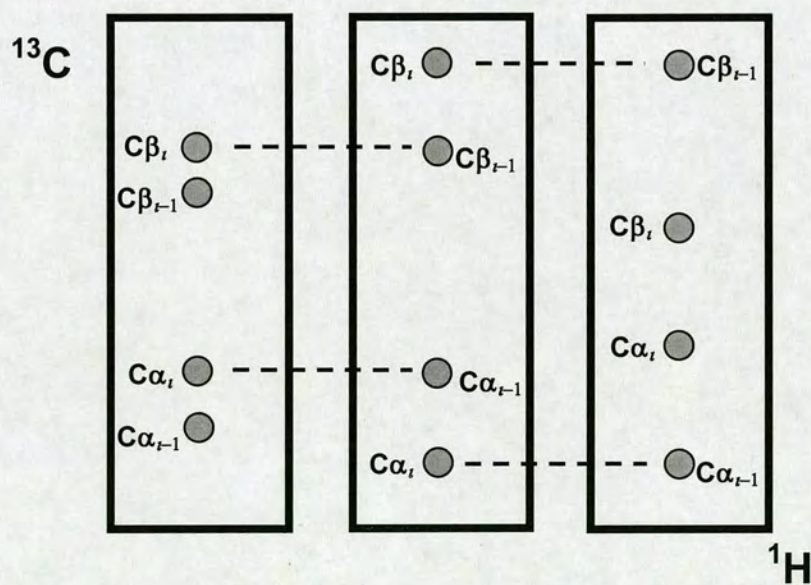


Figure 3.2 Cartoon representations of strips of the HNCACB spectrum. Dashed lines indicate connectivities established by chemical shift matches.

Once connectivities have been established, it still remains to map these connections onto the amino acid sequence. This can be done using known values of C^α and C^β chemical shifts for particular residues obtained from a chemical shift database to identify the residue type or types which may have given rise to a particular strip. The residue type and connectivity information can then be matched with the amino acid sequence.

Obviously, proline residues will not give rise to any peaks in such spectra as they do not contain the amide protons through which the signals are detected. This leads to 'breaks' in the sequential assignment at the proline positions. Such breaks can also be of use in mapping assignments onto the amino acid sequence.

A further experiment, HBHA(CO)NH (Grzesiek & Bax, 1993b) is used to assign H^β and H^α chemical shifts. This experiment is analogous with the CBCA(CO)NH experiment but with 1H frequencies (of $H^{\alpha-1}$ and $H^{\beta-1}$) in F_1 as shown in Figure 3.3.

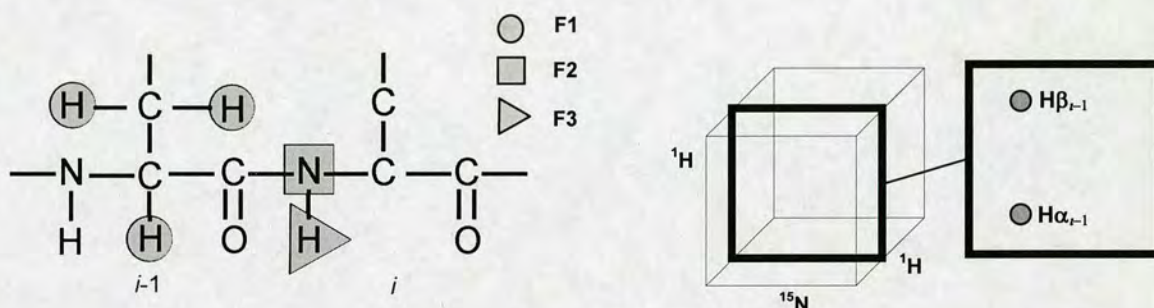


Figure 3.3 Representations of the HBHA(CO)NH experiment

If required, a HBHANH experiment, analogous to the HNCACB experiment, can be acquired which also contains H^{α} and H^{β} resonances thus aiding sequential assignment. In this project, however, the ^{13}C spectra were sufficient for this purpose.



3.3.2 Sidechain Assignment

For the assignment of the sidechain resonances, two 3D experiments were employed – the $H(C)(CO)NH$ (Logan et al., 1993) and $(H)C(CO)NH$ (Grzesiek et al., 1993) experiments. These experiments correlate either all $i-1$ 1H or all $i-1$ ^{13}C resonances with the N^H and H^N resonances of residue i as shown in Figure 3.4.

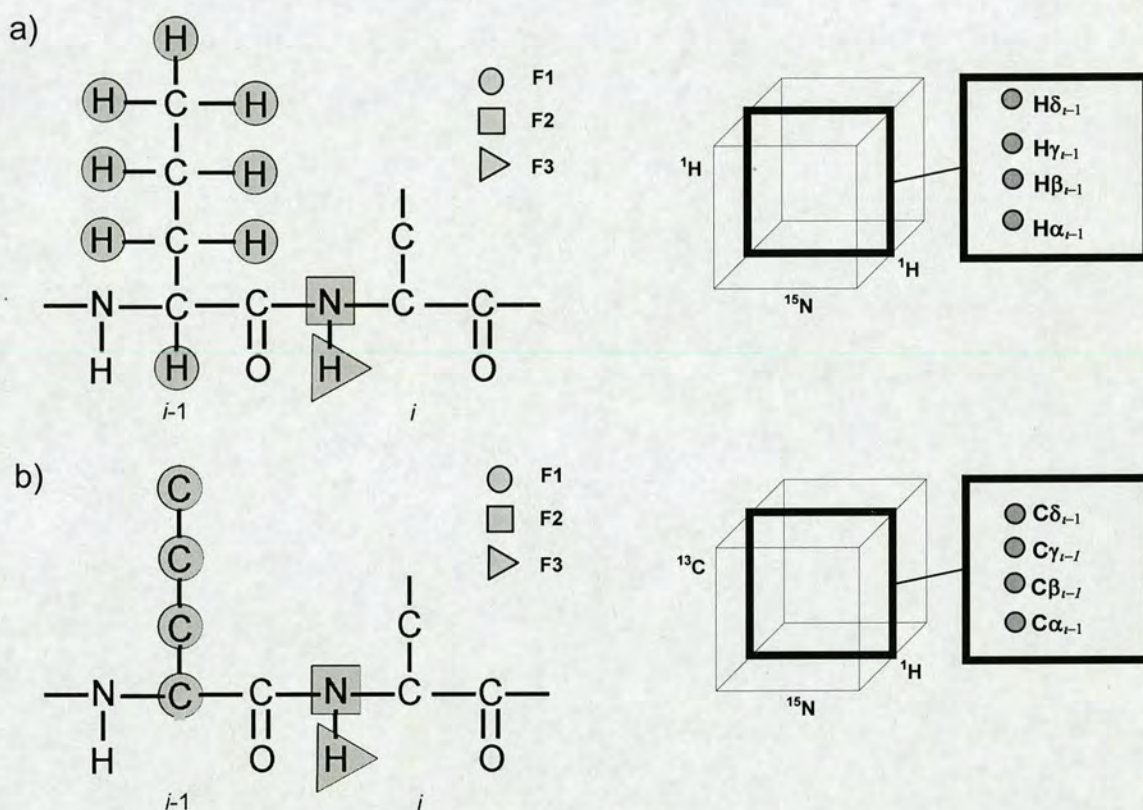


Figure 3.4 Representations of a) the $H(C)(CO)NH$ and b) the $(H)C(CO)NH$ experiments.

These experiments can also be of use in identifying residue types during sequential assignment by identifying peak patterns indicative of particular residues and, again, by referring to a database of known chemical shifts. As was the case in the previous experiments, proline residues are absent and, therefore, the sidechain resonances of pre-proline residues cannot be assigned. It may not be possible to assign some resonances

due to signal overlap. These problems can be addressed by acquiring a third, 3D sidechain experiment – the HCCH-TOCSY (Kay et al., 1993). This experiment provides ^1H spin system information similar to that of a 2D ^1H - ^1H TOCSY experiment but, by using a ^{13}C spinlock instead of ^1H and labeling the ^{13}C , the spectrum is edited along a third axis according to the frequency of the ^{13}C nuclei. Assignment of this spectrum also serves to provide somewhat more accurate chemical shifts for those resonances already assigned.

NOESY spectra are also used in the assignment process (Wuethrich, 1986). The most intense crosspeaks in a strip will usually be due to intra-residue NOEs or NOEs between adjacent residues. This information can be used to confirm the assignments obtained using the above experiments, particularly in the case of pre-proline residues. The amide ^1H 's of Gln and Asn are assigned, following assignment of the other resonances, by identifying the intense NOEs to either H^γ (Gln) or H^β (Asn). Assignment of amine groups can also be achieved in this way but these signals are seldom observed due to the amine ^1H 's being highly labile.

3.3.3 Aromatic Assignment

Assignment of the aromatic ^1H and ^{13}C resonances is achieved using a series of 2D experiments. The INEPT transfer steps of the above resonance assignment experiments are optimised for $^1J_{\text{CH}}$ and $^1J_{\text{CC}}$ values of aliphatic nuclei which are significantly different from those of aromatics. Also, the ^{13}C spin-lock of e.g. HCCH-TOCSY experiment does not cover aromatic resonances. Thus, aromatic-specific experiments are required. The first two of these experiments correlate C^β resonances of aromatic residues with either the H^δ or H^ϵ resonances of the aromatic ring (Yamazaki et al., 1993) as shown in Figure 3.5 a) and b). A third experiment, shown in Figure 3.5 c), involves a direct correlation of aromatic protons with the ^{13}C nuclei to which they are bound.

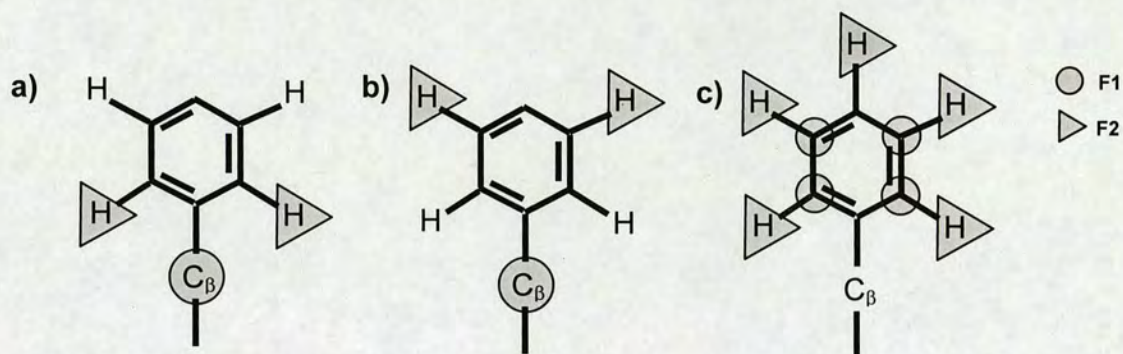


Figure 3.5 Schematic representations of a) the (HB)CB(CGCD)HD, b) the (HB)CB(CGCDCE)HE and c) the aromatic HSQC experiments

3.4 Structure Calculation

Several programs have been developed for the purpose of calculating structures from NMR-derived distance restraints using various algorithms and detailed reviews of the process exist elsewhere (Nilges, 1996, 1998; Guentert, 2003).

In this project, structure calculations were performed with the CNS program (Brunger et al., 1998), incorporating the ARIA protocol (Nilges et al., 1997) for assignment of ambiguous NOE's. The CNS structure calculation protocol operates using an energy minimisation procedure where the total energy of the system, E_{tot} , is the sum of various individual energy terms that define the system.

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \sum (E_{\text{bond}} + E_{\text{angle}} + E_{\text{dihe}} + E_{\text{impr}} + E_{\text{vdw}} + E_{\text{NOE}})$$

Where *bond* refers to covalent bonds; *angle* refers to bond angles; *dihe* refers to dihedral angles; *impr* refers to improper angles; *vdw* refers to van der Waals interactions and *NOE* refers to the contribution from the NOE restraints.

For structure determination by NMR the most significant input is the distance restraints obtained from NOESY experiments. Intensities of crosspeaks which have been picked in the NOESY spectra were automatically calculated within the Analysis program. These intensities were then converted into distance restraints by grouping crosspeaks together into intensity bands corresponding to particular distance bounds. The intensity bands and distance classes used are given in Table 3.1.

Intensity (I)	Distance (Å)
$I > 3.0$	0 - 2.7
$3.0 > I > 1.5$	0 - 3.3
$1.5 > I > 0.3$	0 - 5
$0.3 > I > 0.1$	0 - 6

Table 3.1 NOE distance classes

Only upper bounds were applied to the distance classes since the intensity of a crosspeak is affected by various other factors such as relaxation and spin diffusion and, therefore, a crosspeak may appear weaker than would be expected, were internuclear distances the only consideration.

Once these distance restraint tables have been generated, they are used as input in the CNS structure calculation. Along with the experimental restraint input, a set of empirically derived data including bond angles, stereochemistry, steric interactions and electrostatics known as the ‘forcefield’ is also used to define the behaviour of the atoms. The PARALLHDG forcefield (Linge & Nilges, 1999) was used in this project.

The calculation itself essentially consists of simulated annealing of the protein – heating the system to 2000K and then slowly cooling it to 100K. Three stages of annealing are performed with the results of the previous stage used as an input for the subsequent stages. In the final annealing step, prochiral methylene atoms with non-stereospecific

assignments have their assignments swapped and the lower energy version of each prochiral centre is selected. At the end of the calculation process a user-defined number of structures are produced. These structures are then used, via the ARIA protocol, to refine the input restraints prior to another round of structure calculation.

3.4.1 Violations

For each structure which is calculated a record is made of the experimental restraints which have been violated i.e. those which have not been satisfied in the structure. Violations may occur for a number of reasons – the peak may be incorrectly assigned, there may be several contributions to a peak, the peak may in fact be some artifact or noise or the structure may, in fact, be incorrect. For NOE restraints a restraint was considered to be violated if it was $>0.3\text{\AA}$ beyond the bound defined in the restraint tables. Violations identified in this way are checked by returning to the spectra and re-examining the peak which gave rise to the restraint to correct its assignment, make it more ambiguous or, in the case of artefacts, remove the peak altogether.

3.4.2 ARIA

As described previously, the ARIA protocol allows refinement of ambiguous distance restraints via comparison with the results of the CNS structure calculation. The structures which are to be used in this process are chosen on the basis of lowest total energy. The choice of structures is significant as it determines the effectiveness of the calculation procedure. In any calculation performed with sufficient ‘correct’ restraint information, an ensemble of structures will be generated which share the same energy and overall fold. Examination of a plot of the E_{total} and E_{NOE} of an ensemble will show a plateau corresponding to these structures and these are selected for use in the ARIA protocol. In addition to these criteria, the backbone rmsds of a progressively larger subset or ‘cluster’ of the total structure ensemble (ranked according to E_{total}) is produced (starting with the two lowest energy structures and successively adding the next highest

energy structure) to show the variation of rmsd with the increasing ensemble size, thus providing a further criterion by which to judge the cut-off point (Diamond, 1995).

Filtering

Using the ensemble of structures, ambiguous restraints are filtered. The contribution of each ambiguous restraint is defined according to the proportion of the intensity of the peak which could be attributed to that restraint (according to the distances derived from the structure ensemble). Restraints which contribute less than 1% of the intensity of a peak are discarded.

Checking

After filtering of the restraints, the new restraint tables (both unambiguous and ambiguous) are submitted to the checking procedure which examined the tables to identify instances of duplication. Duplicate restraints will occur where both symmetry-related peaks of an NOE interaction have been picked and assigned. Where duplicate restraints are found, the restraint with the higher intensity was retained. Once these stages are complete, a new table of distance restraints is generated and a new structure calculation round is initiated using these modified restraints. Eventually, the quality of structures produced will show no improvement over the previous round and it can be assumed that the calculation is complete.

3.4.3 Water refinement

The final stage of the structure calculation was to refine the converged structures by recalculating the structures in water. This was performed using the RECOORD database (Nederveen et al., 2005) implemented with CNS. Recalculating structures in explicit solvent has been shown to give significant improvements to measures of structural quality or soundness such as Ramachandran plot statistics (Spronk et al., 2004).

3.4.4 Quality Checks

The quality of experimental data and validation of the resulting structures is an important consideration in solving protein structures by NMR.

Recently, the program QUEEN was developed (Nabuurs et al., 2003) which assesses the uniqueness of experimental distance restraints used in a structure calculation by evaluating the extent to which the addition of an individual restraint reduces the total structural uncertainty. This results in an output wherein the uniqueness of a particular piece of information (I_{uni}) is expressed as a fraction of the total information for the system (I_{total}). In this way, the most unique information present in a set of restraint data can be identified i.e. those restraints which are least supported by other restraints (experimental or empirical). Restraints identified as being particularly unique are more likely to have a significant effect upon the structure calculation and should therefore be examined to assess their validity.

The quality of structures solved by NMR can be assessed by comparing various structural parameters against databases of values from high resolution X-ray structures (Spronk et al., 2004; Nabuurs et al, 2004, 2005). Bond lengths, bond angles, torsion angles, atomic contacts and various other parameters can be used to assess the 'normality' of the protein structure and, therefore, give a measure of how 'good' the structure is. Various programs and databases exist for this purpose. For this project, the programs PROCHECK (Laskowski et al., 1993) and WHATIF (Vriend, 1990) were employed to assess the quality of structures.

The program PROCHECK was used to obtain Ramachandran (Ramachandran & Sasiskharan, 1968) plots which show the distribution of ϑ/ψ angles within a protein. Certain combinations of these angles are more favoured than others and, thus, the plot itself can be divided into regions of favourable and unfavourable angles. Good structures will have the majority of their ϑ/ψ angles in the most favoured regions.

Chapter 4

Complementary Spectra

4.1 Introduction

Four complementary experiments were chosen to be investigated as potential assignment aids. These were the 3D ^{13}C , ^{15}N -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC (CNH-NOESY) and ^{15}N , ^{15}N -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC (NNH-NOESY) for use with the 3D ^{15}N -edited-NOESY (HNH-NOESY); the ^{13}C , ^{13}C -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC (CCH-NOESY) for use with the ^{13}C -edited-NOESY (HCH-NOESY); the ^{13}C , $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC (CCH₃-NOESY) for use with the $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ -edited-NOESY (HCH₃-NOESY).

It was decided not to acquire the NOESY experiments in a time-shared manner (Section 2.3.1:p32) to ensure that all experiments benefited from the maximum sensitivity and resolution. However, if desired, the application of time-shared labeling periods can be achieved with simple extensions of the experiments described.

Pulse programs for these experiments were written and implemented on a Bruker 600 MHz NMR spectrometer fitted with a 5mm triple-axis gradient, triple resonance probe. There follows a brief description of each of the complementary experiments.

4.2 CNH-NOESY - Figure 4.1

As with all the complementary experiments, this sequence begins with an HSQC. An initial ^{13}C $\pi/2$ pulse, used to destroy any magnetization which originates on the ^{13}C nuclei, is followed by ^{13}C HSQC. PFGs are applied on either side of the ^{13}C and ^1H INEPT π pulses to remove any magnetization which did not experience a complete 180° rotation and a gradient pulse is applied while the H_zC_z coherence exists prior to the polarization transfer pulse (Muhandiram et al., 1993) generating the H_zC_y coherence. Due to difficulties with spectral folding in this dimension, if aromatic resonances were also to be labelled, it would be necessary to have much longer acquisition times. In many cases, the number of aromatic proton signals will be far fewer than those of the aliphatic protons and sufficiently resolved to allow unambiguous assignment of their signals. We have therefore opted for using ^{13}C π pulses that invert only aliphatic carbons thus discarding the signal from aromatic carbons. For this purpose, a Q5 pulse (Emsley & Bodenhausen, 1990) was used of duration $160\mu\text{s}$. The inversion profile of the pulse is given in Figure 4.2. If aromatic signals were of interest, the INEPT π pulses could be replaced with adiabatic inversion pulses, to optimize the transfer of magnetization via differing couplings ($^1\text{JCH}_{\text{ali}}$ and $^1\text{JCH}_{\text{aro}}$).

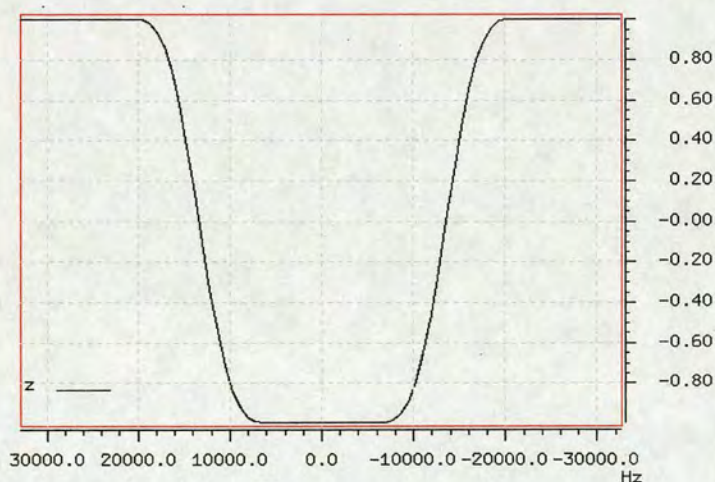


Figure 4.2: Inversion profile of the ^{13}C π pulse for selective excitation of aliphatic carbons

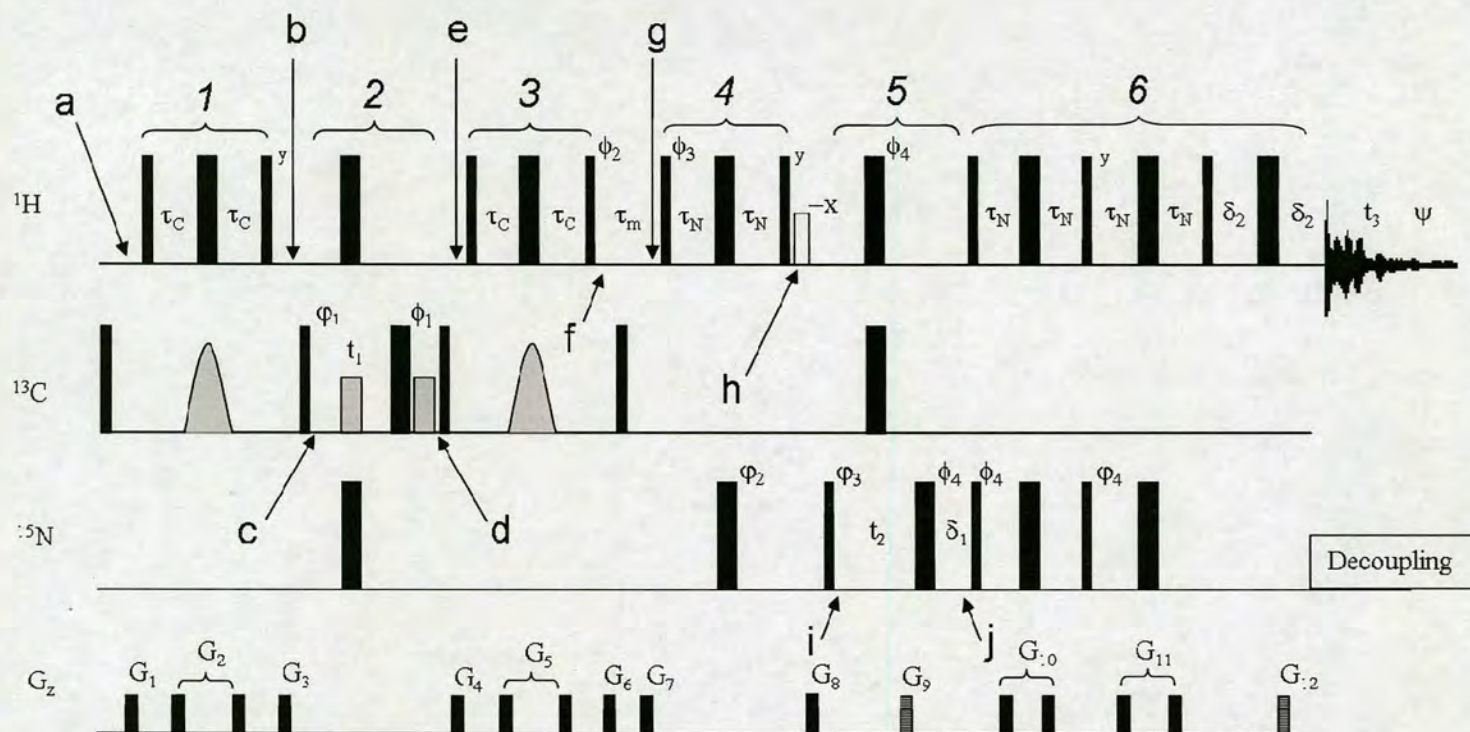


Figure 4.1: The 3D ^{13}C , ^{15}N -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC sequence. $\phi_1=4x, 4-x$; $\phi_2=x$; $\phi_3=x, -x$; $\phi_4=2y, 2-y$; $\phi_1=4y, 4-y$; $\phi_2=8y, 8-y$; $\phi_3=8x, 8-x$; $\phi_4=2x, 2-x$; $\psi=x, -x, -x, x, -x, x, x, -x, -x, x, x, -x, -x, x, x, -x, -x, x$. ϕ_4 shifted by 180° for imaginary component. All other pulses are applied from x axis. $\delta_1=\tau_g + \tau_{C\pi}$, $\delta_2=\tau_g$, where τ_g =length of the PFG and $\tau_{C\pi}$ =length of the ^{13}C π pulse. $\tau_C=1/(4x^1J_{CH})$, $t_N=1/(4x^1J_{NH})$, τ_m =mixing time. Grey bars are $190\mu\text{s}$ Q5 pulses for selective ^{13}C inversion; grey shaped pulses are selective aliphatic inversion pulses (see text). The white bar is a $1400\mu\text{s}$ rectangular pulse for selective water excitation. All PFG's are 1ms and applied with the following strengths (%): $G_1=7$, $G_2=13$, $G_3=23$, $G_4=18$, $G_5=27$, $G_6=30$, $G_7=17$, $G_8=-50$, $G_9=80$, $G_{10}=11$, $G_{12}=8.1$. The grey G_z pulses are applied in the ratio 10:1.

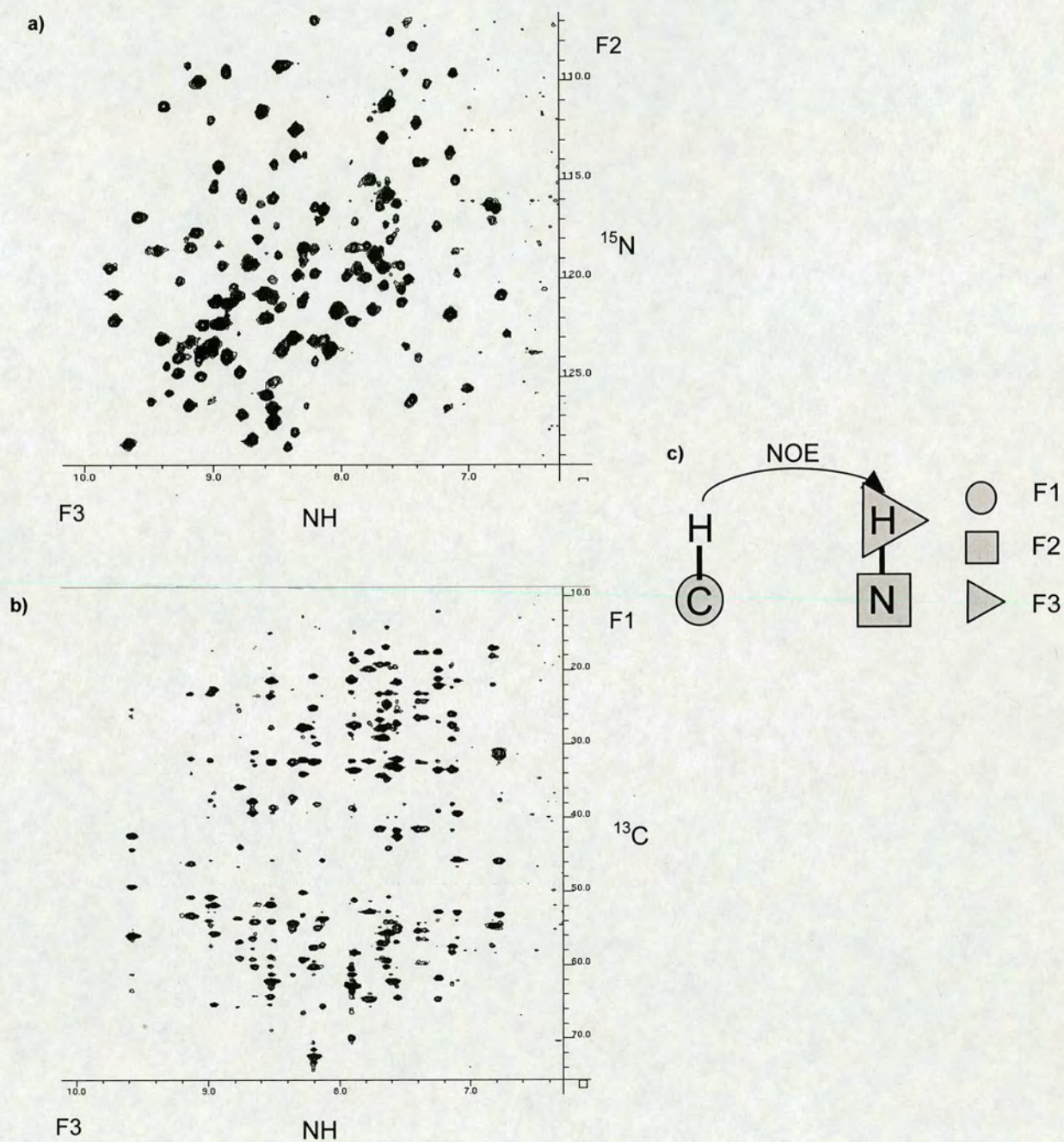
Product Operator Description:

$$\begin{array}{llllllllll}
 \mathbf{a} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{b} & & \mathbf{c} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{d} & & \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{f} & & \mathbf{k} \\
 H_{1z} \rightarrow 2H_{1z}C_z \xrightarrow{90^\circ_C} -2H_{1z}C_y \rightarrow -2H_{1z}C_y c_{\Omega C11} \xrightarrow{90^\circ_C} -2H_{1z}C_z c_{\Omega 11} \rightarrow H_{1z}c_{\Omega C11} & & & & & & & & & & & & \text{(real)} \\
 \xrightarrow{\tau_m} H_{2z}c_{\Omega C11} \xrightarrow{\tau_m} 2H_{2z}N_z c_{\Omega C11} \xrightarrow{90^\circ_N} -2H_{2z}N_y c_{\Omega C11} \xrightarrow{\tau_m} -2H_{2z}N_y c_{\Omega C11} c_{\Omega N12} + 2H_{2z}N_x c_{\Omega C11} s_{\Omega N12} & & & & & & & & & & & & \text{(imaginary)} \\
 & & & & & & & & & & & & \rightarrow -H_{2y}c_{\Omega C11} c_{\Omega N12} - H_{2x}c_{\Omega C11} s_{\Omega N12}
 \end{array}$$

Where $c_{\Omega C11} = \cos\Omega_C t_1$, $c_{\Omega N12} = \cos\Omega_N t_2$ and $s_{\Omega N12} = \sin\Omega_N t_2$

^{13}C chemical shift labeling is then achieved using the variable time method. ^1H , ^{15}N and $^{13}\text{C}'$ π pulses are applied in the centre of the t_1 delay to refocus the couplings to these nuclei. A short ^{13}C spin echo is incorporated by applying a ^{13}C π pulse followed by another $^{13}\text{C}'$ π pulse to remove the effects of any ^{13}C frequency shift which occurred due to the first $^{13}\text{C}'$ pulse (Bloch-Siegert shift). Again, a gradient pulse is applied before returning the magnetization to ^1H . At the end of the refocused INEPT, a further ^1H $\pi/2$ pulse returns the magnetization to the z-axis to allow transfer of magnetization via NOE during the mixing period, τ_m . A ^{13}C $\pi/2$ pulse during τ_m removes any magnetization that was not fully refocused by converting any remaining $2\text{H}_x\text{C}_z$ coherence into the unobservable, multiple quantum coherence $2\text{H}_x\text{C}_y$. Since the desired magnetization resides on the z-axis at this point, a PFG is also applied during τ_m to remove any other, unwanted magnetization. Following the NOE transfer, the second, ^{15}N HSQC commences. As with the ^{13}C HSQC, zz gradients are applied prior to the magnetization transfer pulses and decoupling of the ^1H and ^{13}C nuclei is achieved by applying π pulses to these nuclei during t_2 . A short spin echo is employed following t_2 to account for any additional chemical shift evolution which occurs during the application of the encoding gradient and the relatively long ^{13}C π pulse. To improve the sensitivity of this sequence, the final, refocused INEPT step is replaced with a sensitivity enhancement block (Cavanagh et al., 1991). Gradient selection is used during this block to remove the water signal. In addition, a selective 90° , water flip-back pulse is applied prior to the t_2 period to ensure that the water signal resides on the z-axis prior to acquisition. The initial values of t_1 and t_2 are set to half the value of the time increments in these dimensions to give zero and first order phasing of 90 and -180 in these dimensions. This allows pulses applied to other nuclei to be accommodated by t_1 and gives smoother baselines in the spectrum.

Since the magnetization passes first through ^{13}C nuclei and then ^{15}N nuclei before detection through the ^{15}NH nuclei, the magnetization which originated from the ^{15}NH nuclei is not detected and, thus, the spectrum contains no diagonal peaks. As can be seen



from the F_1F_3 and F_2F_3 projections in figures 4.3 a) and b), the spectrum therefore superficially resembles the (H)C(CO)NH spectrum, but with ^{13}C resonances not limited to $i-1$ residues.

4.3 NNH-NOESY - Figure 4.4

This sequence is very similar to the CNH-NOESY with the difference that the first HSQC step transfers magnetization to the ^{15}N nuclei. Chemical shift labeling is achieved via the variable time method in both indirect dimensions with short spin-echos used in t_1 and t_2 to compensate for chemical shift evolution occurring during the decoupling ^{13}C pulse. Water suppression is achieved by the use of selective water pulses to return the water signal to the z axis prior to acquisition. A WATERGATE sequence is also employed in the final, refocusing INEPT step to further reduce the detected water signal. Initial incrementation of t_1 and t_2 by half of the increment in these dimensions is also used.

In this case, since the magnetization both originates on and is detected through $^{15}\text{N}^{\text{H}}$ nuclei, the magnetization which is not transferred during τ_m gives rise to intense autocorrelation peaks in the spectrum as shown in Figure 4.5. No benefit was obtained by using a sensitivity enhancement block in this experiment and so the shorter, simpler sequence was employed.

4.4 CCH-NOESY – Figure 4.6

In this complementary experiment two ^{13}C HSQCs are separated by the NOESY mixing time. PFGs are applied at points where the H_2C_z coherences are present and further PFGs sandwich the π pulses of the INEPT steps. Evolution of the coupling to ^1H , ^{15}N and $^{13}\text{C}'$ nuclei during t_1 and t_2 is removed by applying π pulses on these nuclei, as in the previous experiments, necessitating the use of a spin echo and additional $^{13}\text{C}'$ pulse

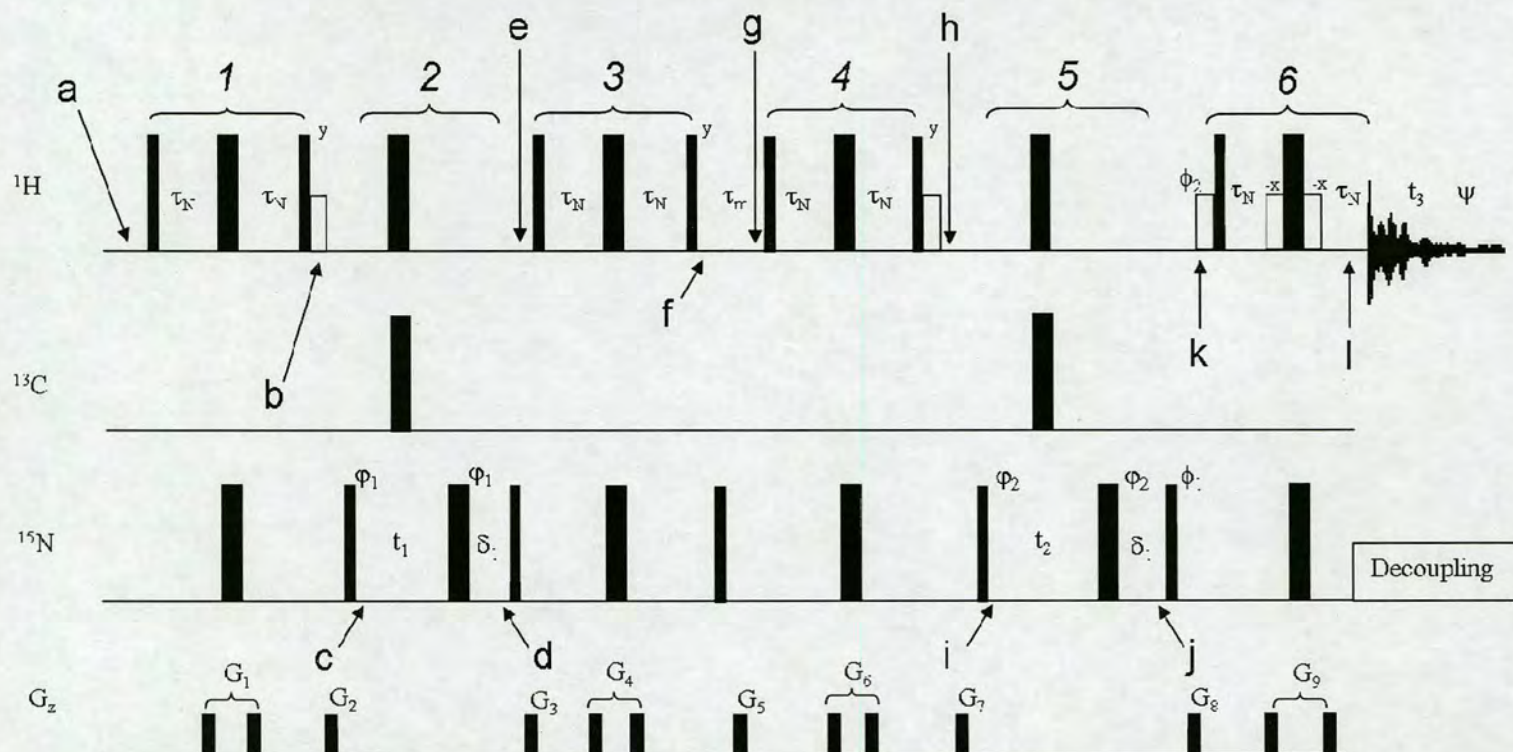
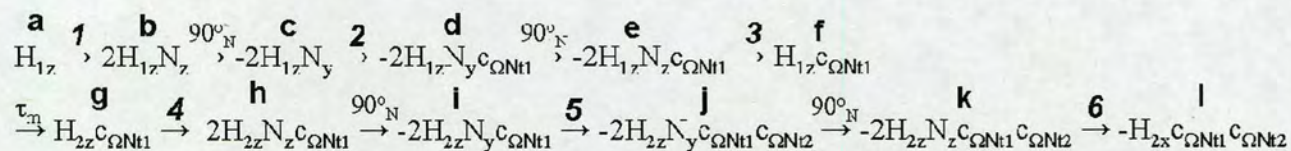


Figure 4.4: The 3D ^{15}N , ^{15}N -IISQC-NOESY-IISQC sequence. $\pi/2$ and π pulses are represented by thin and thick black bars respectively. $\phi_1=8x, 8-x; \phi_2=2x, 2-x; \phi_3=x, -x; \phi_4=4x, 4-x; \psi=x, -x, -x, x, -x, x, x, -x, -x, x, x, -x, x, -x, -x, x$. All other pulses are applied from x axis. $\delta_1=\tau_{\text{CPH}}$, where τ_{CPH} is the length of the ^{13}C π pulse. $\tau_{\text{N}}=1/(4\pi J_{\text{NH}})$, τ_{m} =mixing time. All PFGs are 1ms long and applied with the following strengths (%): $G_1=14, G_2=30, G_3=18, G_4=27, G_5=40, G_6=5, G_7=12, G_8=60, G_9=-60$. Sign discrimination in F_1 and F_3 is achieved via the States-TPPI method by incrementing the phases of ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 by 90° . White bars are $1400\mu\text{s}$ rectangular pulses for selective water excitation.

Product Operator Description:



Where $c_{\Omega N t_1} = \cos \Omega N t_1$ and $c_{\Omega N t_2} = \cos \Omega N t_1$



Figure 4.5: a) F_2F_3 and, b), F_1F_3 projections of the NNH-NOESY spectrum of BlgB. c) A schematic illustration of the experiment

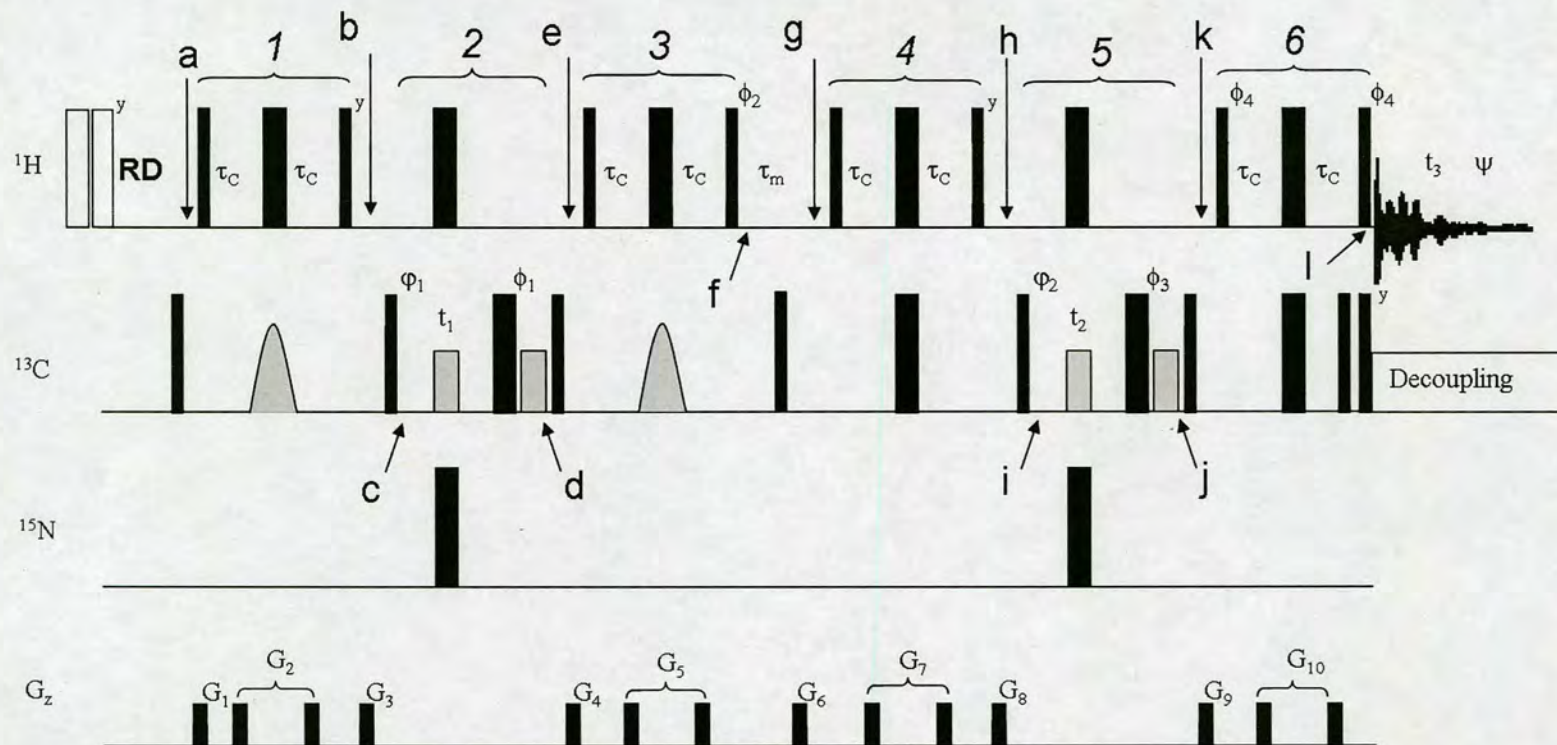


Figure 4.6: The 3D ^{13}C , ^{13}C -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC sequence. $\phi_1 = x, -x$; $\phi_2 = 2x, 2-x$; $\phi_3 = 4y, 4-y$; $\phi_4 = 16y, 16-y$; $\phi_5 = 4y, 4-y$; $\phi_6 = 4x, 4y, 4-x, 4-y$; $\psi = x, -x, -x, x, -y, y, y, -y, -x, x, x, -x, y, -y, -y, y, -x, x, x, -x, y, -y, -y, y, x, -x, -x, x, -y, y, y, -y$. All other pulses are x . $\tau_c = 1/(4x^1J_{\text{CH}})$, τ_m = mixing time, RD = relaxation delay of 1.5s. PFG's are 1ms long and applied with the following strengths (%): $G_1 = 30$, $G_2 = 10$, $G_3 = 13$, $G_4 = 15$, $G_5 = 5$, $G_6 = 27$, $G_7 = 33$, $G_8 = 80$, $G_9 = 22$, $G_{10} = 12$. Grey bars are 190 μs Q5 pulses for selective ^{13}C inversion; grey shaped pulses are selective aliphatic carbon inversion pulses (see text), the white bars are rectangular pulses of length 2.5 ms for removal of coherent magnetization. Sign discrimination in F_1 and F_3 is achieved via the States-TPPI method by incrementing the phases of ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 by 90° .

Product Operator Description:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbf{a} \quad \mathbf{1} \quad \mathbf{b} \quad \xrightarrow{90^\circ_{\text{C}}} \mathbf{c} \quad \mathbf{2} \quad \mathbf{d} \quad \xrightarrow{90^\circ_{\text{C}}} \mathbf{e} \quad \mathbf{3} \quad \mathbf{f} \\
 & \text{H}_{1z} \rightarrow 2\text{H}_{1z}\text{C}_z \rightarrow -2\text{H}_{1z}\text{C}_y \rightarrow -2\text{H}_{1z}\text{C}_y\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11} \rightarrow -2\text{H}_{1z}\text{C}_z\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11} \rightarrow \text{H}_{1z}\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11} \\
 & \xrightarrow{\tau_m} \mathbf{g} \quad \mathbf{4} \quad \mathbf{h} \quad \xrightarrow{90^\circ_{\text{C}}} \mathbf{i} \quad \mathbf{5} \quad \mathbf{j} \quad \xrightarrow{90^\circ_{\text{C}}} \mathbf{k} \quad \mathbf{6} \quad \mathbf{l} \\
 & \rightarrow \text{H}_{2z}\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11} \rightarrow 2\text{H}_{2z}\text{C}_z\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11} \rightarrow -2\text{H}_{2z}\text{C}_y\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11} \rightarrow -2\text{H}_{2z}\text{C}_y\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11}\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}12} \rightarrow -2\text{H}_{2z}\text{C}_z\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11}\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}12} \rightarrow -\text{H}_{2x}\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11}\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}12}
 \end{aligned}$$

Where $\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}11} = \cos\Omega_{\text{C}1}t_1$ and $\text{c}_{\Omega\text{C}12} = \cos\Omega_{\text{C}2}t_2$

following the t_1 and t_2 periods to eliminate Bloch-Siegert shift. In the de- and refocusing steps of the first HSQC, magnetization is transferred only to and from aliphatic carbons by the use of a selective ^{13}C π pulse. In the final HSQC, magnetization is transferred to both aliphatic and aromatic carbons. Adiabatic ^{13}C π pulses are therefore used to maximize the magnetization transfer through these differing couplings. Treatment of the water signal is effected through phase cycling and a hard water flip-back pulse applied prior to acquisition. A train of two ^{13}C $\pi/2$ pulses is applied immediately before acquisition, acting as a composite $\pi/2$ pulse to convert any remaining $2\text{H}_y\text{S}_z$ coherence into multiple quantum coherence. Water suppression is achieved by the combined use of phase cycling, gradients prior to polarization transfer pulses and the final $\pi/2$ ^1H pulse which returns the water signal to the z axis (Grzesiek & Bax, 1993a).

As with the NNH-NOESY spectrum, autocorrelation peaks are present, visible as the very intense peaks in the F_1F_3 planes of the spectrum as shown in Figure 4.7. Folding of the F_2 dimension is employed but the spectrum is unfolded in the F_1 dimension.

4.5 CCH₃-NOESY - Figure 4.8

Since methyl-containing sidechains are abundant in proteins, particularly in hydrophobic cores or cavities, methyl-selective experiments have been shown to be useful in protein NMR in both resonance assignment (Uhrin et al., 2000a) and NOESY experiments (Zwahlen et al., 1998; Uhrin et al, 2000b, Xia et al., 2001). By selecting only a small region of the ^{13}C frequencies, the spectral width and, thus, resolution of these experiments can be much greater. Furthermore, the more favourable relaxation properties of methyl carbons allows the use of constant-time labeling, further improving the spectral resolution.

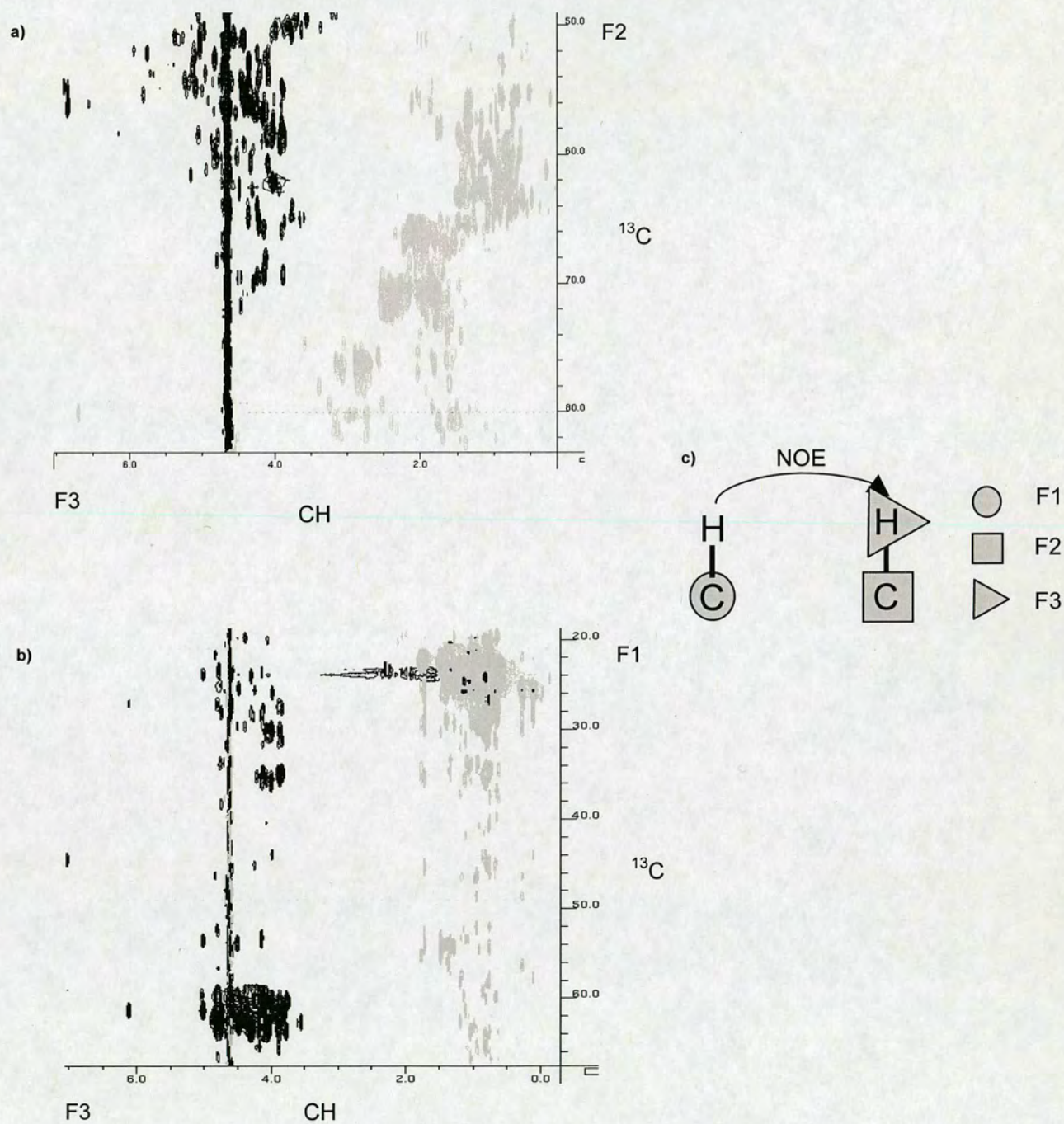


Figure 4.7: a) F_2F_3 and, b), F_1F_3 projections of the CCH-NOESY spectrum of BlgB. c) A schematic illustration of the experiment

This experiment proceeds in a manner identical to the 3D HCH₃-NOESY experiment (Uhrin et al, 2000b) but with an initial ¹³C HSQC during which the magnetization is labeled with the ¹³C frequencies in a variable time manner. The selective ¹³C π pulse used in the INEPT steps was again chosen to cover only aliphatic ¹³C frequencies. Following the NOE mixing period, the second HSQC occurs wherein the INEPT ¹³C π pulses cover only the methyl carbon frequencies. For this purpose a 300 μ s Q5 pulse was used with the inversion profile given in Figure 4.9.

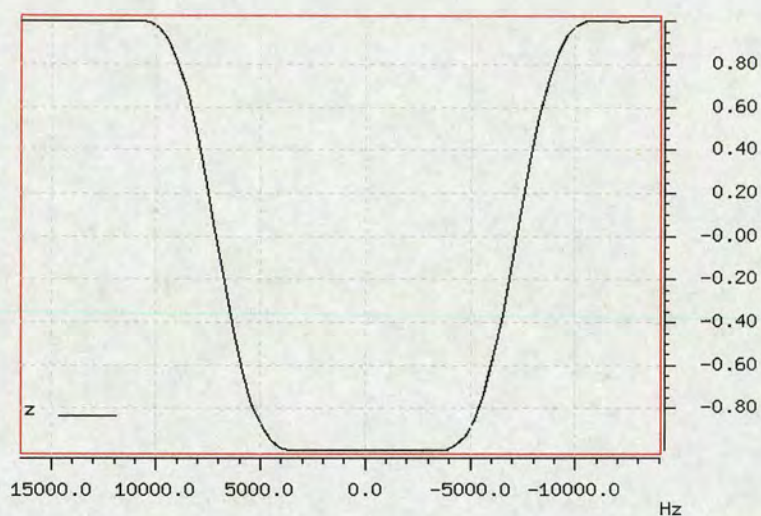


Figure 4.9: Inversion profile of the ¹³C π pulse for selective excitation of methyl carbons

Chemical shift labeling of methyl carbon frequencies in t_2 is achieved in a constant time manner during a 28 ms interval. This is possible due to the better relaxation properties of methyl carbons. During the refocusing INEPT step, a WATERGATE block, incorporating a composite ¹H pulse is used to remove the water signal.

The product operator description of this experiment is identical to that of the CCH-NOESY with the exception of the second labeling period which, as well as being constant-time, is modified in order to edit the spectrum to remove the signals due to ¹³CH₂ carbons. To achieve this, once every two scans the ¹H π pulse applied during t_2 is shifted towards the start of the sequence by $1/2 \times J_{\text{CH}_3}$ (ca. 4 ms). In those scans where

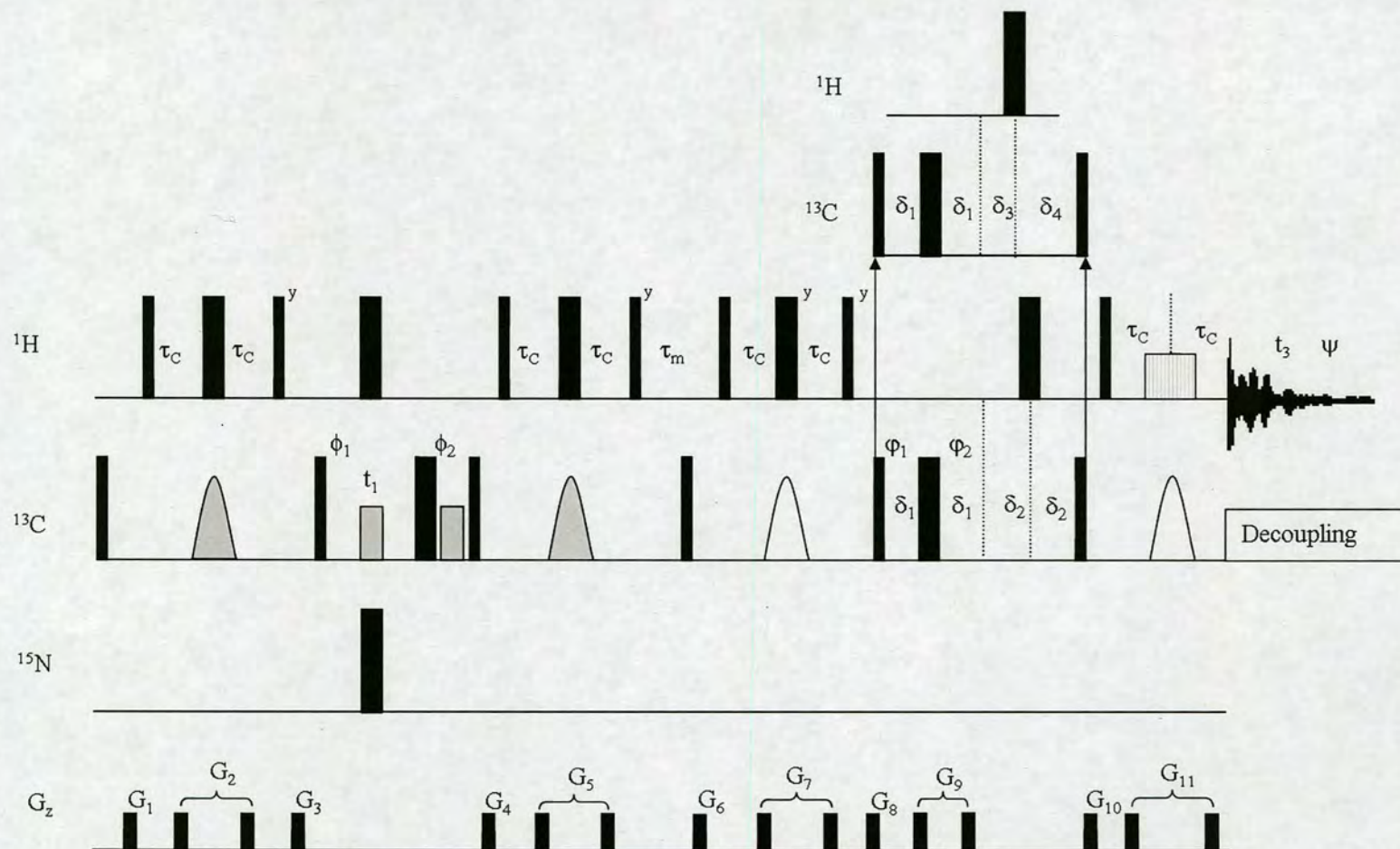


Figure 4.8: The 3D ^{13}C , $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ -HSQC-NOESY-HSQC sequence. $\pi/2$ and π pulses are represented by thin and thick black bars respectively. Every two scans, the alternate sequence shown in the inset was used. $\phi_1=4x, 4-x$; $\phi_2=4y, 4-y$; $\phi_1=2x, 2-x$; $\phi_2=x$; $\psi=x, -x, -x, x, -x, x, x, -x$. All other pulses are from x axis. $\tau_C=1/(4x^1J_{\text{CH}})$, τ_m =mixing time. All PFGs are 1ms except G_9 (0.5ms) and applied with the following strengths: $G_1=12$, $G_2=17$, $G_3=23$, $G_4=-14$, $G_5=5$, $G_6=18$, $G_7=21$, $G_8=50$, $G_9=7$, $G_{10}=-50$, $G_{11}=73$. Sign discrimination in F_2 is achieved using the STATES TPPI method by incrementing ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 by 90° . Grey bars are $190\mu\text{s}$ Q5 pulses for selective ^{13}CO inversion; grey and white shaped pulses are selective aliphatic and methyl carbon inversion pulses respectively (see text). $\delta_1=(T-t_2)/2$, $\delta_2=t_2/2$, $\delta_3=\delta_2-\tau_a$, $\delta_4=\delta_2+\tau_a$, where $\tau_a=1/(2 \times ^1J_{\text{CH}_3})$.

For product-operator treatment, see text

the ^1H π pulse is not shifted, no evolution of the ^{13}C - ^1H coupling occurs and the magnetization on CH , CH_2 and CH_3 carbons will all have the same sign. Shifting the ^1H π pulse allows the ^{13}C - ^1H couplings to evolve for a period equal to twice the size of the shift. At the end of this period, the effective magnetization for CH , CH_2 and CH_3 carbons will contain $\cos\pi J\tau$, $\cos^2\pi J\tau$ and $\cos^3\pi J\tau$ terms respectively. By offsetting the ^1H π pulse by $1/(2x^1J_{\text{CH}})$, the period of evolution will be $1/J_{\text{CH}}$ and the above terms will become -1, +1 and -1. Thus, a change in the sign of the $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ (and ^{13}CH) resonances has been achieved but the $^{13}\text{CH}_2$ resonances remain positive throughout. Suitable phase cycling of the receiver thus ensures that the $^{13}\text{CH}_2$ signals are eliminated. This removes the possibility of overlap between the $^{13}\text{CH}_2$ and $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ signals. Of course, some ^{13}CH resonances will have ^{13}C chemical shifts in the methyl region (e.g. LeuH^γ) but, due to their faster relaxation, these signals will have much lower intensity.

As shown in Figure 4.10, excellent resolution of methyl signals is achieved in the F_2 dimension. The spectrum is identical to the 3D CCH-NOESY spectrum with the exception that it contains only those signals that passed through $^{13}\text{CH}_3$ or ^{13}CH protons which are within the inversion bands of the selective pulses.

Due to the use of a constant-time labelling period, both the CCH_3 -NOESY and its partner, the HCH_3 -NOESY are less sensitive than their non-selective counterparts which show more signals and higher intensities as illustrated in Figure 4.11. However, as can also be seen, the reduced sweep width and longer sampling time in F_2 give much improved resolution and, along with the editing out of $^{13}\text{CH}_2$ signals, reduced overlap revealing more cross peaks that would have remained hidden or unresolved in the non-selective experiments. This is particularly evident in the region close to the diagonal and therefore assists identification of signals that are observed close to the diagonal in the HCH -NOESY.

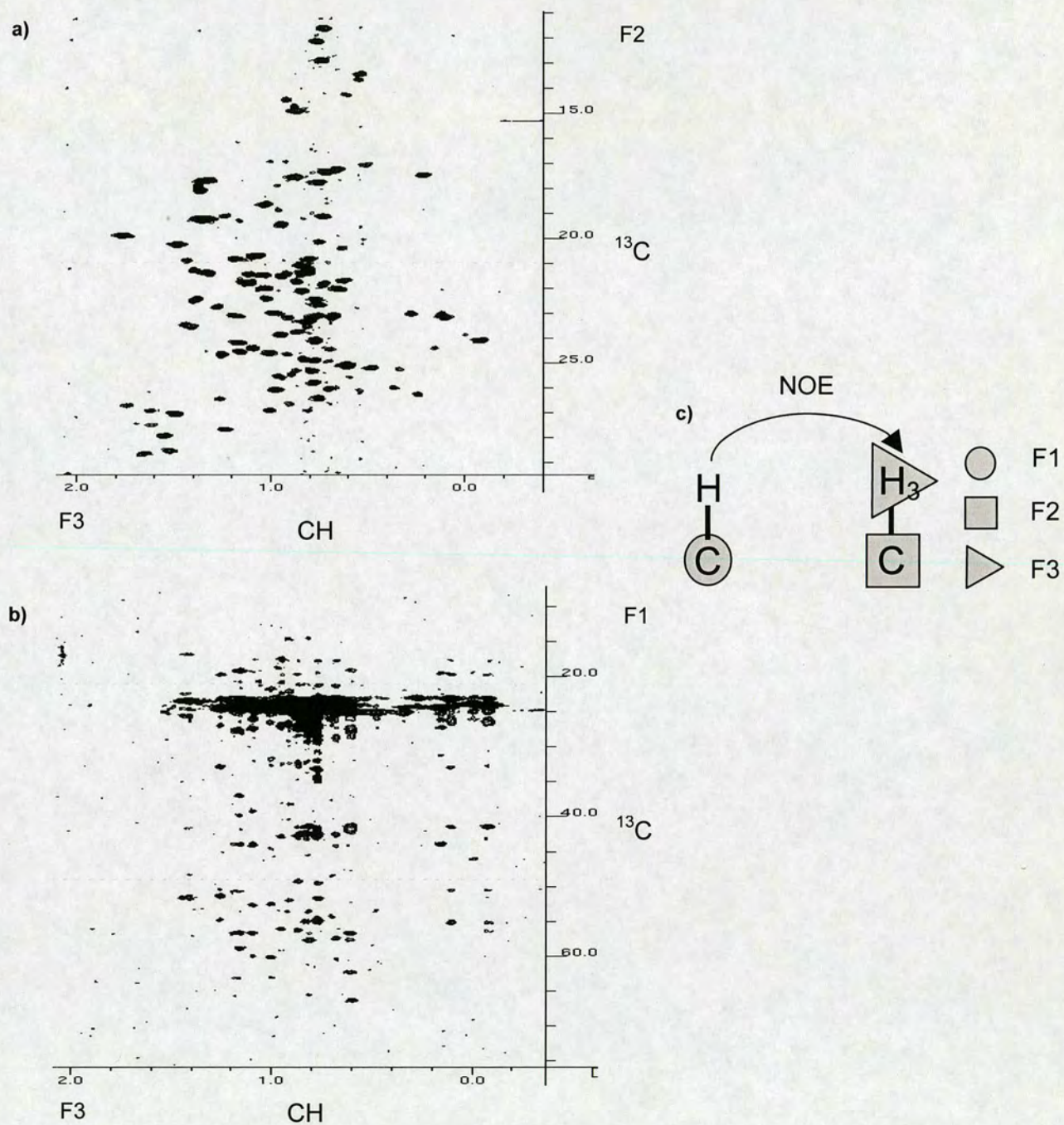


Figure 4.10: a) F₂F₃ and, b), F₁F₃ planes of the 3D CCH₃-NOESY spectrum of BlgB. c) A schematic illustration of the experiment

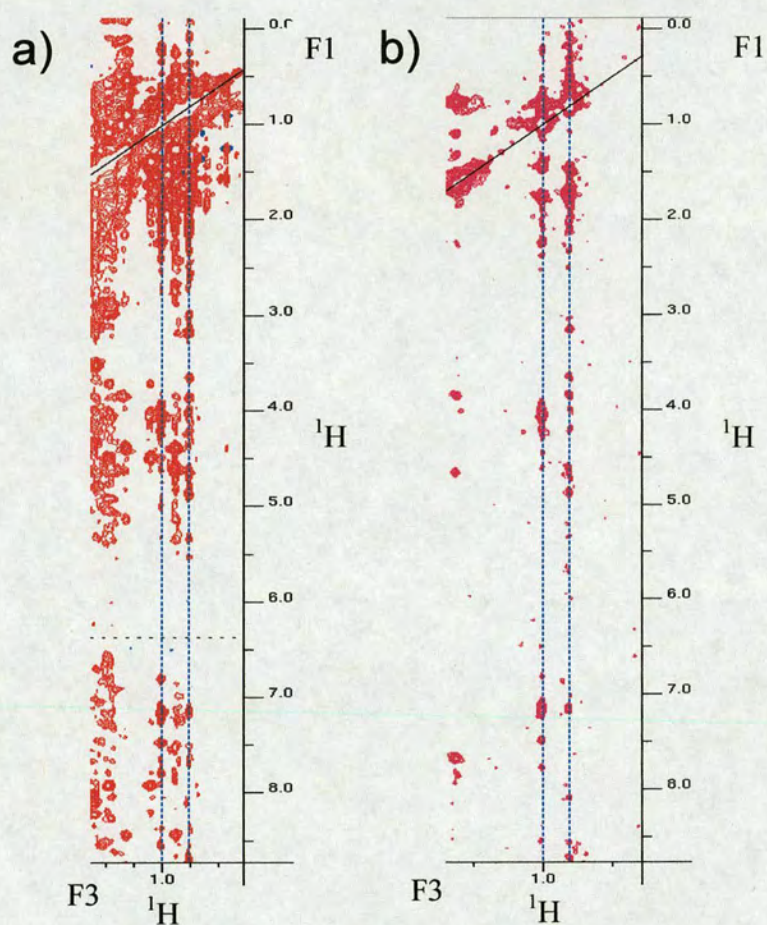


Figure 4.11: Equivalent planes of a) the HCH-NOESY and b) HCH₃-NOESY spectra of BlgB.

Chapter 5

Protocol

A total of seven 3D NOESY spectra were acquired using the BlgB sample. The development of a protocol for the use of these spectra is the focus of this chapter. Combining these spectra in an efficient and effective manner and attempting to identify those which yield the most useful information most quickly was the focus throughout this process.

5.1 Genesis of the Protocol

Using these spectra together requires some consideration so as to make the whole process as simple as possible, while maintaining the maximum assignment validity. It was decided that the basic operating principle should be the assignment of those spectra with proton-frequency modulation in t_1 (HNH-NOESY, HCH-NOESY and HCH₃-NOESY), which will be termed ‘standard’ NOESY experiments with the spectra with heteronuclear-frequency labeling in t_1 or ‘complementary’ experiments being used as assignment aids. This is the natural choice to ensure the simplicity and ease of use of the protocol; the use of the former set of experiments in structure determination via NMR being well established.

The basic principle of this method was introduced in section 2.4.4 and is summarised again here. For any strip at a particular F_2F_3 position in a standard 3D NOESY spectrum, corresponding to a particular proton, A, there will exist an equivalent strip in the

relevant complementary spectrum. In the standard NOESY strip, protons which share NOEs with A will appear along the F_1 axis at their respective chemical shifts. In the complementary NOESY strip, crosspeaks will appear at F_1 positions corresponding to the chemical shifts of heteronuclei, X, whose protons share an NOE with A. Thus, ideally, for every peak in the standard spectrum arising from an NOE interaction with an X-bound proton there will be an equivalent peak in the complementary spectrum. When considering the assignment possibilities for a peak in the standard spectrum, the probability of a correct assignment will be increased by examining the equivalent strip in the complementary spectrum. In effect, incorrect assignment possibilities of standard NOESY peaks are filtered out by comparison with the peaks in the complementary spectrum.

This is the theoretical principle of operation. However, on considering the potential for non-ideal behaviour, there emerge several points which must be addressed in constructing the eventual assignment protocol. The various cases are given below.

Case A

The simplest and most favourable case is that the spectra are perfect and contain all the peaks which would be expected. In this ideal situation, every peak in the standard spectrum will have only one (correct) assignment which agrees with one of the peaks of the complementary spectrum.

Case B

The most obvious example of non-ideal behaviour is that the complementary spectrum may not necessarily contain the relevant peak. Due to the additional magnetization transfer step employed in the complementary experiments, these spectra will be less sensitive than their standard counterparts. This will obviously be a particular concern for very weak peaks. Furthermore, some signal loss will occur when the magnetization

resides on the heteronucleus. The degree to which this occurs will differ according to the relaxation properties of the individual heteronuclei. The combination of these two effects has the potential to significantly reduce the number of peaks present in the complementary spectrum relative to the ideal spectrum.

A qualitative assessment of this difference can be obtained by simply comparing the number of crosspeaks present in equivalent strips of the standard and complementary spectra. While this is by no means a rigorous test, a significant deviation from this state would indicate a poor signal density and beg further investigation.

Case C

i) A possibility for incorrect assignment may arise if the complementary spectrum does not contain the appropriate supporting peak but *does* contain some other peak or peaks which support some other (potentially incorrect) assignment or assignments.

ii) Another point to consider is that there may be more than one assignment possibility for which a corresponding peak can be found in the complementary spectrum. This is similar to the example given in section 2.3.4:Method 1 of finding multiple symmetry-related peaks supporting various different assignments.

Both of these cases can be addressed to a large degree by looking for symmetry-related peaks to confirm assignments (once the complementary spectrum has been used to eliminate assignment possibilities) as in Method 1. If erroneous assignments are produced via either of the above instances, then, in a perfect case, there will be no symmetry related peaks to support these assignments. Of course, the absence of a symmetry-related peak may be due to factors other than the absence of an NOE interaction and it may still be possible that an 'incorrect' symmetry peak is found. However, this additional check increases the confidence with which any assignment is made and the number of cases where both an incorrect complementary peak *and* an

incorrect symmetry peak support an assignment should be far less than the cases of incorrect complementary peaks alone. Looking for symmetry related peaks is therefore crucial to the operation of the Protocol.

Case D

A significant problem arises if the proton shift is known but the shift of the heteronucleus to which it is bound is not known. In these cases, not only is it very difficult to look for symmetry related peaks but using the complementary peaks to filter the ^1H possibilities will, in fact, eliminate the correct assignment.

Obviously, this must be accounted for and so a condition is added to the protocol whereby any assignment possibility for a standard NOESY peak, whose heteronuclear shift is not known, is considered to be a valid assignment thus ensuring that no potentially correct assignments are falsely disregarded.

Case E

The peaks of the standard and/or complementary spectra may be overlapped with one another and therefore cannot be picked. For the standard spectra this is not an uncommon problem and it is somewhat benign since, importantly, it does not lead to erroneous assignments, merely a loss of information. For the complementary spectra, this is a somewhat greater concern as being unable to identify an individual peak may well lead to incorrect assignments.

The operation of the protocol will therefore be as shown in Figure 5.1. Its basic feature being that assignment possibilities are filtered via the complementary spectrum prior to looking for symmetry related peaks.

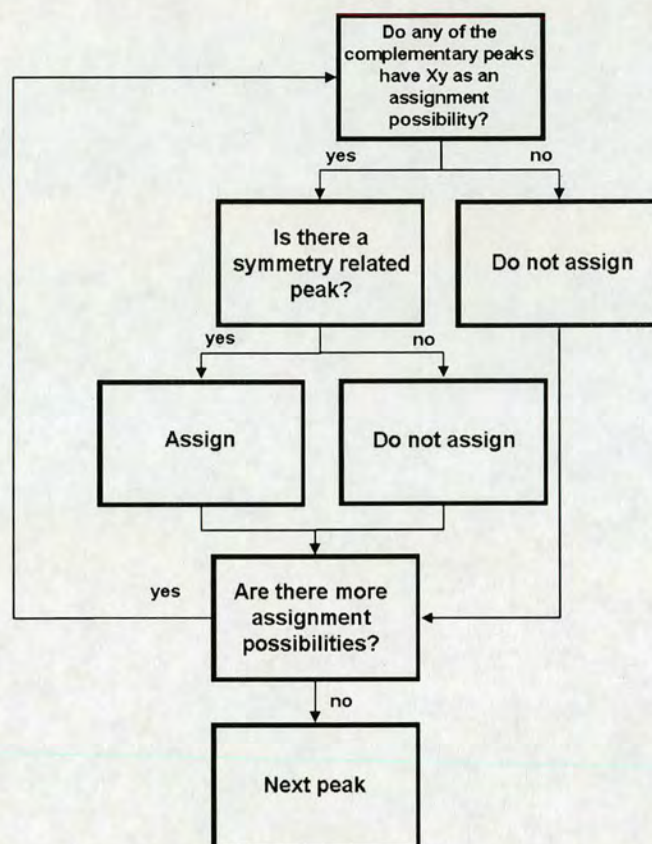


Figure 5.1: Flowchart of the decision making process used in assigning a NOESY spectrum via method 2 considering a particular assignment possibility, H^y , (where y is the position α , β ..) bound to a heteronucleus, X .

The emphasis throughout the development of the protocol is reducing the total assignment ambiguity while maximizing the confidence with which any assignment is made. This is by no means an infallible process and, as has been noted, it is still possible to make erroneous assignments. However, this method is based upon the fewest assumptions and ensures that those assignments which *are* made are made only on the basis of the available data. Thus, even though it is accepted that some assignments will be incorrect, a far greater portion should be correct and, on performing a structure calculation, it should become apparent which assignments are incorrect and can be dealt with accordingly.

Of course, the resonance assignment of the protein may be incomplete which presents further potential problems. When assigning a NOESY spectrum via the standard method, an incomplete resonance assignment may well lead to peaks being assigned incorrectly since the correct assignment will not be presented as an assignment possibility. The use of the complementary spectra can be seen as a safeguard against this given that, ideally, none of the incorrect assignments will have a corresponding peak in the complementary spectrum. Making an incorrect assignment in such a situation is still possible but the risk is certainly reduced.

5.1.1 Initial Implementation of the Protocol

Manually investigating the assignment possibilities for a particular peak is a time-intensive procedure and, arguably, the addition of this intermediate stage (relative to Method 1) will only lengthen the time spent assigning the spectra.

It is therefore desirable to employ some automated or semi-automated processing of the assignment possibilities such that, for any given peak, the user is only presented with those assignment possibilities for which there exists an appropriate peak in the complementary spectrum. In so doing, the total number of possibilities which must be examined will be reduced relative to Method 1 and progress can be made more rapidly. There follows a brief explanation of the implementation of this procedure in the Analysis software package.

On assigning a peak in one of the standard NOESY spectra, the user is presented with all the nuclei whose chemical shift lies close to the chemical shift of the peak under consideration, in that dimension. In Analysis this is achieved by searching the chemical shift list for all shifts that lie within a certain, specified range of the chemical shift value. For each of the possibilities, the equivalent complementary strip must be examined to see if it contains a peak with a plausible heteronuclear chemical shift.

Naturally, the assignment process could be conducted on any peak and in any order, however, as discussed, the potential for multiple valid assignments, missing peaks or overlap mean that a logical approach would be to examine the spectra one strip at a time. In addition, since the peaks of a particular strip in the standard NOESY must all be checked against the assignment possibilities of the peaks of the same strip of the complementary spectrum, it is also more efficient to assign the spectrum in this way, thus minimizing the time spent selecting the correct regions in each spectrum and the, albeit small, computation time.

There are numerous ways to automate this process but the simplest, in terms of those functions available within Analysis, was to first create a list of all assignment possibilities for the peaks in a strip of the complementary spectrum. An assignment possibility for a peak in the standard NOESY strip can then be checked against this list to see whether there are any 'matches', indicating a valid assignment. This is achieved by querying whether the two nuclei are covalently bonded to one another.

The overall procedure for assignment of the spectrum is thus: i) select the standard NOESY strip and the equivalent complementary strip, ii) pick the peaks in each strip iii) execute the macro to yield the assignment possibilities deemed valid. On executing the macro, the graphical output shown in Figure 5.2a is generated containing numbers which correspond to the peaks of the standard NOESY strip in the order they were selected. In this example the spectra being used are the HNH-NOESY and the CNH-NOESY. Transfer of the F_2 and F_3 assignments (in this case, from the 2D ^{15}N - ^1H HSQC) is a trivial matter. For this purpose, the 'Assign other Dims' button is used. The user can then select an individual peak from the list and on clicking the 'Assign' button, a second window is opened, as illustrated in Figure 5.2b, displaying the assignment possibilities for that peak deemed valid by matches with assignment possibilities of the complementary spectrum peaks.

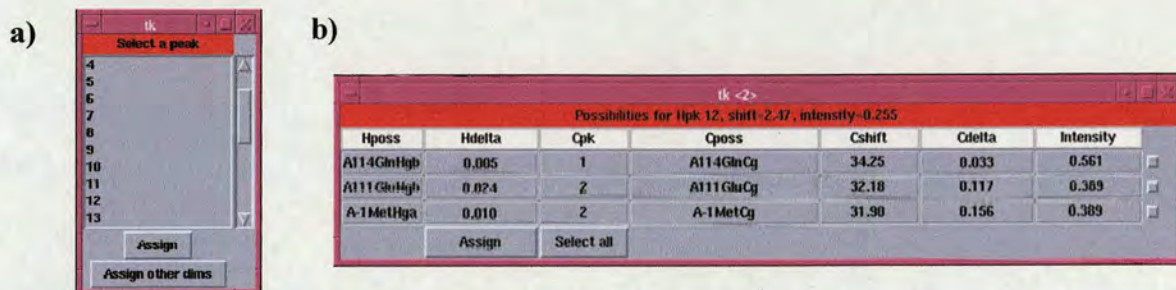


Figure 5.2: Graphical output of the semi-automated assignment macro showing, a), the peak selection window and, b), the assignment window for a particular peak

The user must then investigate each of the assignment possibilities identified to see if a symmetry related peak exists by manually navigating to the appropriate region of the relevant spectrum (in this case, the $C^{\text{ali}}\text{-H}^{\text{N}}$ region of the HCH-NOESY).

The assignment possibilities window contains some further information that may potentially be of use when assigning. The first of these is the difference in chemical shift between the assignment possibility and the peak, referred to here as delta. In this procedure there are two delta values to be considered – one for the standard NOESY spectrum and one for the complementary spectrum. If both of these values are large, the assignment possibility is less likely to be true than if both assignment possibilities agree well with the positions of the peaks from which they are derived. The second item, denoted Cpk, shows which of the peaks in the complementary strip gave rise to the matching assignment, allowing the user to locate the relevant peak easily. The third item is that of relative intensity. This gives the intensity of a complementary spectrum peak relative to the most intense peak in that strip (which is given an intensity of 1). This can be compared with the relative intensity of the standard spectrum peak (given at the top of the window) to provide a further assessment of the validity of a particular assignment. These intensities are not expected to match exactly for correct assignments due to overlap and relaxation considerations, nevertheless, a large difference will indicate an assignment is less likely. A further improvement was made to this interface to indicate

when a particular peak of the complementary spectrum had already been ‘used’. This is an attempt to account for the fact that, in the absence of overlap, a single peak in the complementary strip should correspond to no more than two peaks (in the case of non-equivalent methylene protons) in the standard strip. If a ‘match’ is made then the complementary peak involved in that match is flagged (coloured red in the Cpk column) letting the user know it has been used. This provides a further means of eliminating assignment possibilities. The relative intensity values are also of use here to indicate which peaks show good agreement in intensity and are therefore likely partners or which complementary peaks can potentially be used more than once, reflecting the possibility of overlap.

The assignments which are deemed valid after checking for symmetry peaks, comparing intensities and checking for peaks which have been used more than once can then be selected via the radio buttons at the right of each row and assigned to the peak using the ‘Assign’ button.

5.1.2 Initial Testing of the Protocol

Prior to testing the performance of the assignment protocol, a qualitative measure of the suitability of the HNH- and CNH-NOESY spectra of BlgB was obtained by comparing the number of peaks present in 30 equivalent strips of the two spectra. The results are given in Table 5.1

Spectrum	No. peaks
HNH-NOESY	449 ^a
CNH-NOESY	313

Table 5.1: Numbers of peaks present in equivalent strips of the HNH-NOESY and CNH-NOESY spectra. ^aThis is the number of peaks present in the aliphatic ¹H region of each strip.

Each peak in a strip of the CNH-NOESY spectrum should correspond to one (in the case of CH, equivalent CH₂s and CH₃ groups) or two peaks (non-equivalent CH₂s) in the HNH-NOESY strip and so the number of peaks present in each should be fairly similar. In this case, the number of peak present in the complementary spectrum relative to the standard spectrum was ca. 70%. This was judged to be a suitable agreement to proceed with using these spectra.

The procedure outlined above was then used to assign the HNH-NOESY spectrum of BlgB. In order to assess the performance of the protocol relative to the standard assignment method, two separate, identical peak lists were created for the spectrum to allow each peak assignment to be performed twice - once using Method 1 and once using Method 2. This affords a direct, side-by-side comparison of the two methods to examine not only the degree to which ambiguity has been reduced but also what impact this difference has upon the subsequent structure calculation. The results of this process are summarized here. Of course, when using the CNH-NOESY spectrum, only the peaks corresponding to H^N-H^{ali} interactions can be assigned via Method 2, the remaining peaks (H^N-H^N and H^N-H^{aro}) were assigned via Method 1.

On considering the results of assignment via method 2 compared with those of method 1, two situations are immediately apparent where the method 2 outperforms method 1. The first of these cases is that of ambiguity elimination. Here the protocol returns a single, unambiguous assignment for a peak while the standard method produces an ambiguous assignment. Figure 5.3 gives an example of this. In this particular case, the assignment provided by the protocol was confirmed by the presence of a symmetry related peak in the HCH-NOESY spectrum and was therefore assigned to the peak. Of the standard method assignments, it was not possible to exclude any possibilities on the basis of symmetry related peaks and, thus, the standard method would require that all three possibilities be assigned to the peak.

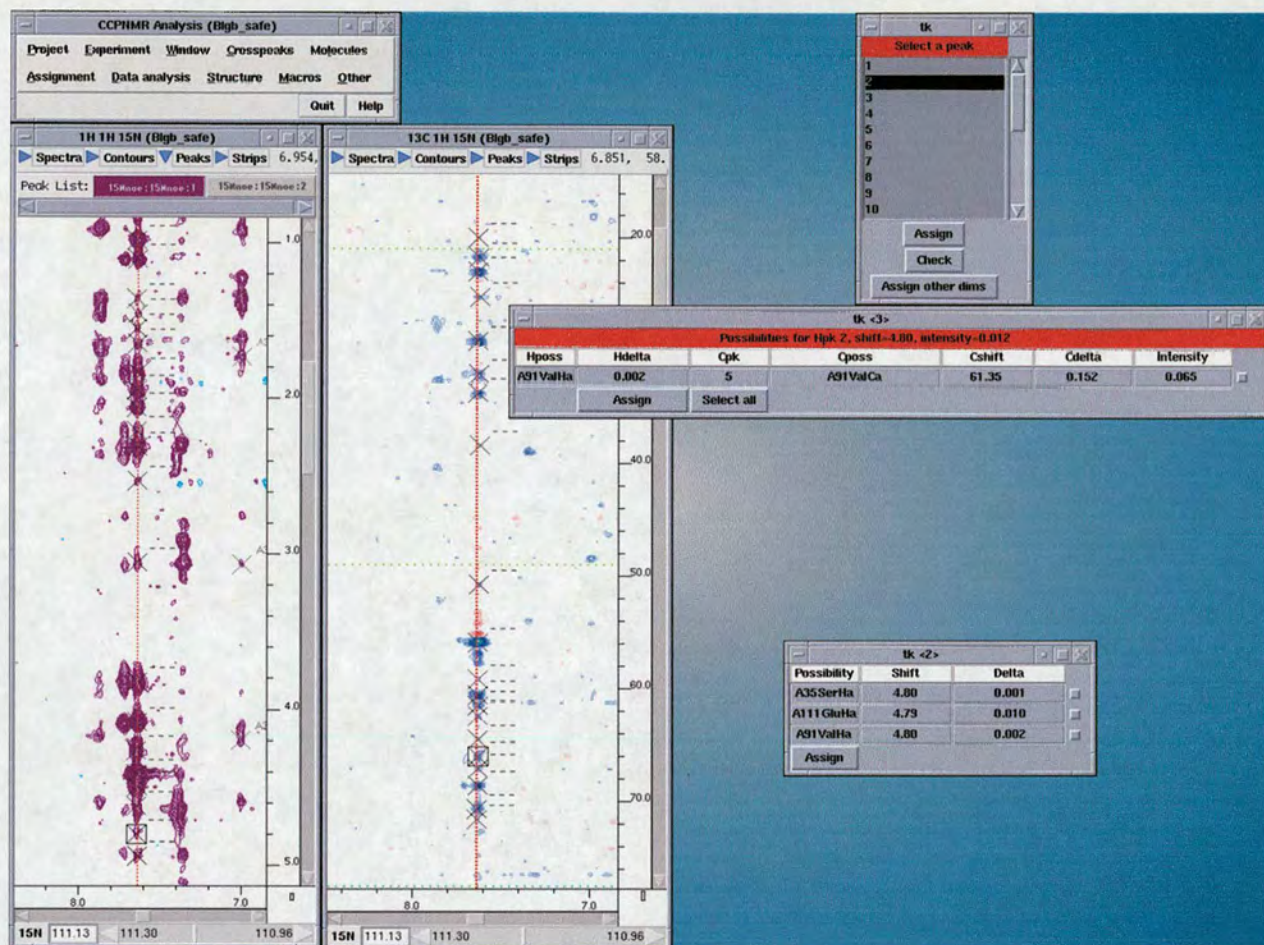


Figure 5.3: Screenshot of semi-automated assignment macro in operation within the Analysis software package. Illustrated is a case of ambiguity elimination. The peak under consideration (highlighted) has three valid assignment possibilities when assigned using the standard method (bottom right window) but only one possibility when assigned via the protocol

The second instance is that of ambiguity reduction. In this case both the protocol and standard method assignments are ambiguous but the degree of ambiguity is less for the protocol than the standard method. An example of this is shown in Figure 5.4.

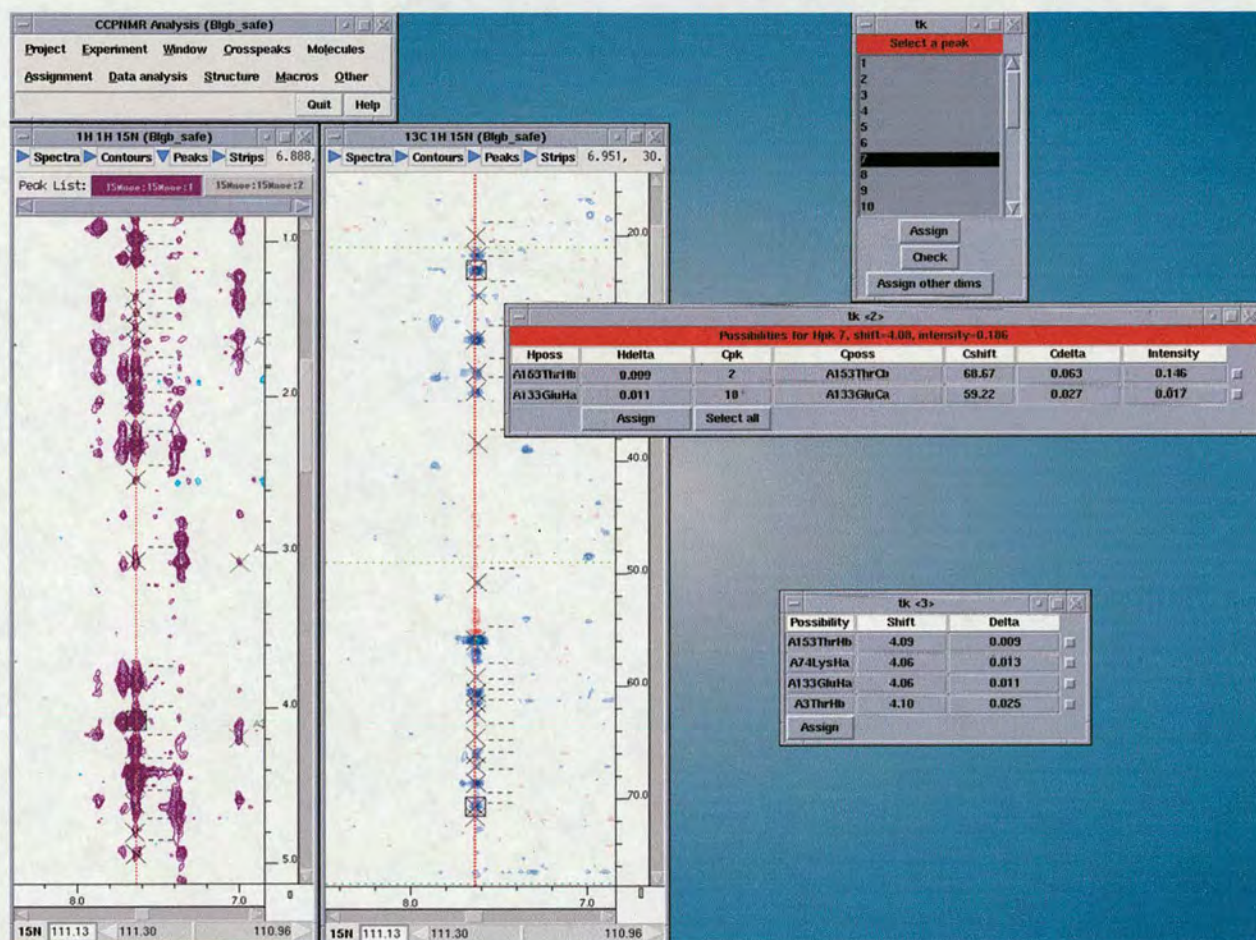


Figure 5.4: Screenshot of semi-automated assignment macro in operation within the Analysis software package. Illustrated is a case of ambiguity reduction. The peak under consideration (highlighted) has four valid assignment possibilities when assigned using the standard method (bottom right window) but only two possibilities when assigned via the protocol (neither of which can be eliminated on the basis of symmetry related peaks)

During this process of testing, a third potential improvement emerged. As explained previously, the semi-automated assignment macro tracks which of the peaks in the complementary spectrum strip have been used to corroborate assignments in the peaks of the standard spectrum. In some cases, upon completing the assignment of a standard spectrum strip, it was noted that some peaks of the complementary spectrum remained

unused. Clearly these peaks must have arisen due to some NOE interaction and should therefore have a corresponding peak in the standard strip. On examining the assignment possibilities for these unused peaks to determine where the corresponding peaks should be in the standard spectrum, it was found that, in the majority of cases, the predicted peak positions were in crowded regions of the standard spectrum strip. Of those few cases where no potential partners were found in the standard spectrum, the complementary spectrum peaks under consideration were relatively weak and were eventually regarded as noise.

Thus, the protocol also provides a method for extracting additional information from the standard spectra that would otherwise have remained hidden. Similar observations have been made previously (Diercks et al., 1999). An additional function was therefore included in the macro to indicate which complementary peaks had not been used. This information is obtained using the 'Check' button visible in the previous figures.

Recording this information can be achieved in two ways – the 'unused' complementary peak can be assigned to the appropriate ^{13}C nucleus in F_1 or a new assignment can be created at the appropriate position in the standard spectrum and assigned accordingly. The former approach is somewhat less accurate since it would not indicate those cases where only one of the protons bound to a heteronucleus shows an NOE to the proton under consideration and therefore the latter approach was adopted. A problem arises, however, in attempting to convert these instances into useable restraints for a structure calculation. Since the new assignments which are created will exist in regions of intense signal, translating the signal intensity into a particular distance class may well lead to these restraints being incorrectly classified. To account for this, it was decided that all such restraints should be placed in the longest (0-6Å) bound.

Overall, the peaks were classified in three categories – unambiguous, semi-ambiguous and ambiguous, reflecting the number of assignments and the degree of certainty with which they were made. The three classes are defined as follows:

- Unambiguous: F_1 , F_2 , F_3 assignments known
- Semi-ambiguous: Multiple F_1 assignments possible
- Ambiguous: No F_1 assignment made

The two types of ambiguity differ in the amount of information supporting their assignments and are therefore treated differently when used in the structure calculation.

At this point it is useful to consider the order in which the various restraints (unambiguous, semi-ambiguous, ambiguous) are used in the calculation procedure. If incorrect assignments exist, the calculation process is relied upon to detect their presence. This requires that the incorrect assignments be outweighed by a sufficient majority of correct assignments to ensure that the incorrect assignment cannot be satisfied whilst satisfying all other restraints. This may become more difficult if ambiguous assignments are included at the start of the process. Since an ambiguous assignment provides a number of potential satisfactory outcomes it is possible that incorrect assignments may be 'masked' by the greater flexibility or range of calculated structures. It was therefore deemed preferable to proceed with unambiguous restraints as far as possible before introducing ambiguity into the procedure. The weight of correct unambiguous restraints will thus allow identification of the incorrect restraints (as violations). These can then be dealt with and the first generation of structures will be produced. Ideally, this ensemble of structures will be of sufficient quality to be used to filter the ambiguous restraints, thus decreasing the time which must be spent dealing with these restraints. In addition, the quality of the structure ensemble which is used in the filtering process will determine how effective the process is – the more accurate the ensemble, the more incorrect contributions to ambiguous assignments will be discarded.

Inclusion of the ambiguous restraints is performed in two stages with the completely ambiguous restraints the last to be added. This is due to the assignments given to these peaks being made solely on the basis of chemical shift (no supporting complementary peak or symmetry-related peaks being found) and, therefore, these assignments are supported by the least information. That no symmetry related peaks were found could, among other things, be due to these peaks being items of noise or artefacts or it may be the result of incomplete chemical shift tables failing to provide the correct assignment possibility. Therefore, there is a greater likelihood that these restraints contain erroneous information which would hinder the process of structure determination if included earlier in the proceedings.

The assignments made based on extra signals found in complementary spectra are also somewhat less certain – the existence of a peak in the standard NOESY being inferred rather than explicit – and the intensity class, as mentioned, is also not precisely known. Also, the total number of such cases was found to be quite few (27) and the majority of these were the less significant intra-residue and sequential NOEs. For these reasons it was also decided to defer the inclusion of these restraints until a later point in the calculation.

In total, 2913 peaks were selected. The number of unambiguous, semi and ambiguous assignments obtained for Methods 1 and 2 are given in Table 5.2.

Method	Unambiguous	Semi-ambiguous	Ambiguous
1	1749	742	422
2	1867	607	439

Table 5.2: Numbers of unambiguous and ambiguous assignments produced assigning HNH-NOESY spectrum via Method 1 and Method 2

From this, it is clear that Method 2 gives a greater number of unambiguous assignments and, although the magnitude of this increase is perhaps smaller than expected, the significance of these additional restraints will soon become clear.

It should also be noted that these figures are the initial assignments, prior to any structure calculation and subsequent investigation of violated restraints and will therefore be expected to contain a number of 'incorrect' assignments. Furthermore, these numbers are for all the peaks in the spectrum, corresponding to all interactions - H^N-H^N , H^N-H^{aro} and H^N-H^{ali} . Using the CNH-NOESY spectrum will only reduce the ambiguity of the H^N-H^{ali} peaks, however which comprise 1360 of the Method 1 unambiguous assignments and 1474 of the Method 2 unambiguous assignments.

Thus, the protocol performs as expected by reducing the total assignment ambiguity, but whether this has a significant effect upon the subsequent structure calculation is a far more important consideration. To this end, the unambiguous peak assignments were converted into restraints using the Generate Constraints command in Analysis. The resulting restraint tables were exported and used as input in a CNS structure calculation.

Following these calculations, the restraints which were violated were examined. As noted earlier, when using Method 2, an incorrect assignment can be made due to some lack of information i.e. the correct complementary peak was not present but some other, incorrect assignment *was* supported (case C). These instances cannot be detected, however, until the structure calculation is unable to satisfy these restraints and they are presented as violations. Checking these violations therefore involves performing assignment of the relevant peaks via Method 1 in the hope of obtaining the correct assignment. If assignment via Method 1 reveals no more viable assignments, the peak is made ambiguous.

After checking the violations there remained 1673 unique (non-duplicate), unambiguous restraints in the Method 2 dataset and 1527 unique, unambiguous restraints in the Method 1 dataset. At this point, the structures calculated with these restraint tables began to show the correct fold as shown in Figure 5.5.

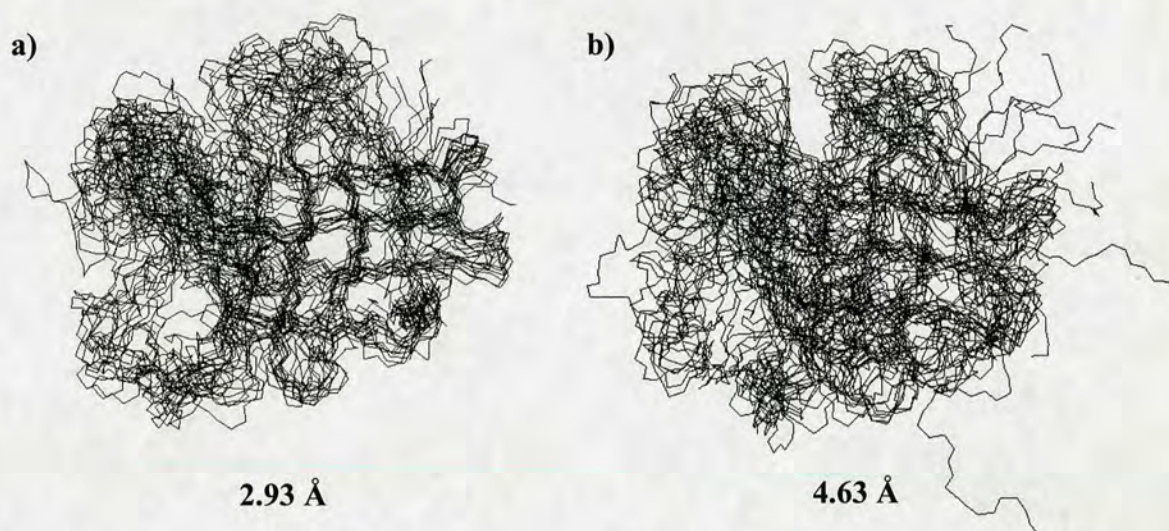


Figure 5.5: Lowest energy (20 of 100) structures resulting from structure calculations performed using a) Protocol restraints and, b), Method 1 restraints. The numbers indicate the backbone rmsd's. Figure made using MOLMOL (Koradi et al., 1996)

The structures resulting from the Method 2 restraints are seen to be superior to those obtained using the standard method restraints with lower rmsds and, significantly, structures converging on the same overall fold. This is not the case for the structures obtained using Method 1 assignments where no two structures enjoy the same overall fold, although, as can be seen, elements of structure are evident. Thus, it would appear that Method 2 reduces the total assignment ambiguity and, in doing so, provides a set of restraint data which deliver better structures more quickly.

The number of restraints used in each calculation does not differ greatly and so the differences observed here must be due to the type of restraints present in the two datasets. The NOE statistics for these unambiguous restraints are given in Table 5.3.

Method	NOE type			
	Intra-residue	Sequential	Short Range	Long Range
1	471	717	142	197
2	471	716	196	290

Table 5.3: NOE statistics for unambiguous restraints produced via Method 1 and 2. Short range restraints correspond to interactions between nuclei which are 2-4 residues apart in the sequence and long-range to nuclei >4 residues apart.

As would be expected, the majority of the restraints are intra-residue and sequential restraints and these are essentially the same for both methods. The significant difference is found in the number of short and long-range distance restraints which have a much greater effect upon the structure determination process. Method 2 is seen to produce ca. 35% more short range and ca. 47% more long range distance restraints relative to Method 1.

The distribution of assignments reflects a natural conservatism employed in assigning NOESY spectra whereby the strongest NOE peaks usually report intra-residue and sequential contacts. Such peaks are therefore assigned unambiguously more frequently than the weaker short- and long- range crosspeaks.

In a very few cases it was noted that where Method 2 returned no assignment (ambiguous) Method 1 in fact returned an unambiguous assignment. These instances are due to occurrences of case B i.e. the CNH-NOESY spectrum did not contain the relevant peak (or the region was too crowded to pick the relevant peak). This results in the Method 1 dataset containing some additional unambiguous assignments which are not present in the Method 2 dataset. In total, nine such cases were observed – six sequential NOEs and three short-range NOEs.

The significance of the reduced ambiguity inherent in Method 2 is supported by QUEEN analysis of the unambiguous restraints provided by Method 2. Figure 5.6 shows the results of this analysis. Indicated on this plot are those assignments which were obtained via Method 2 but *not* via Method 1 i.e. the cases of ambiguity elimination. In total, 155 ambiguity elimination events were identified representing 11% of the unambiguous H^N - H^{ali} crosspeaks. The NOE statistics for these ambiguity elimination events are given in Table 5.4. Of these 155 ambiguity eliminations, the majority of these can be seen to be the more structurally significant short- and long-range restraints.

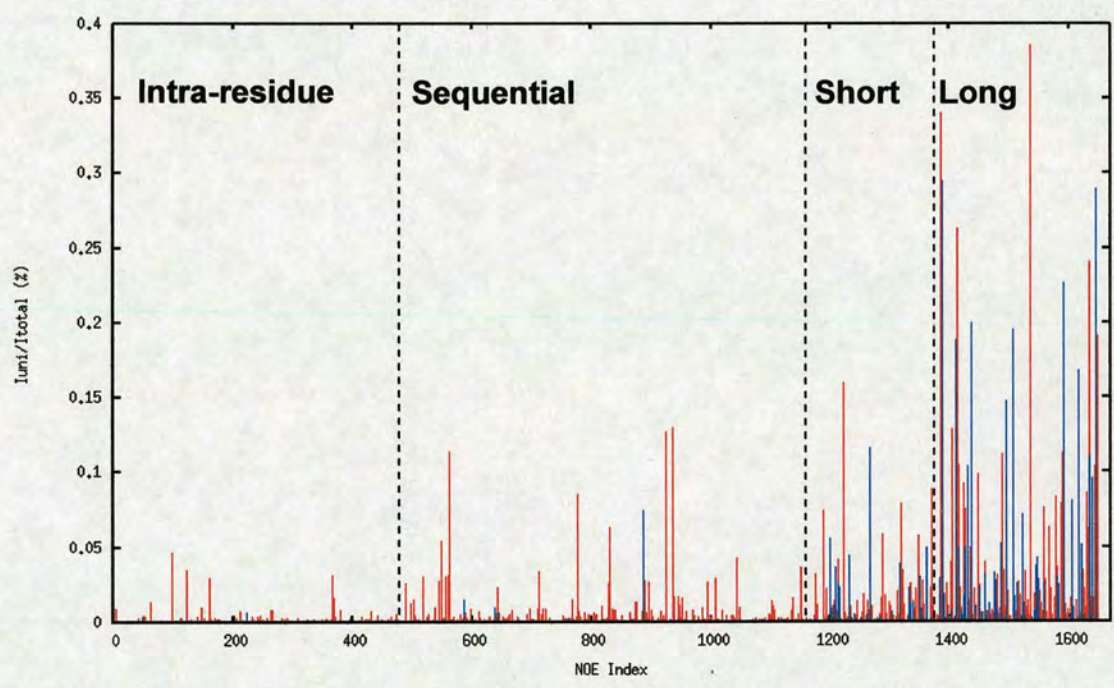


Figure 5.6: Plot of I_{uni}/I_{total} values for unambiguous restraints obtained via Method 2. Restraints which correspond to ambiguity elimination events are in blue.

NOE class		
Sequential	Short	Long
5	57	93

Table 5.4: Numbers of sequential, short- and long-range restraints present in the 155 cases of ambiguity elimination.

It is clear that Method 2 provides more unique information which leads to the correct structure for the protein more quickly.

Examining the semi-ambiguous restraints shows a similar result. A peak by peak comparison of the degree of ambiguity (number of assignments) in the semi-ambiguous Method 1 and 2 restraints was performed to obtain the number of cases of ambiguity reduction. Again, the total ambiguity which exists is reduced with a total of 207 cases of ambiguity reduction being identified (ca. 14% of the H^N-H^{ali} restraints).

The effect of an improved structural template and restraints with reduced ambiguity as input for the filtering process is shown in Figure 5.7. Proceeding via the Protocol gives a better quality structure much more quickly, arguably requiring only one round of filtering. Method 1, however, requires more filtering rounds to achieve the same quality of structures.

The assignment of the HNH-NOESY took several months. Method 1 and Method 2 were conducted in tandem and so an assessment of the time difference in assigning the spectrum by each method was not possible. The steps involved in each method are essentially the same, however, the only difference being the number of possibilities which must be considered for each peak (Method 1 requiring more). Method 2 therefore did not provide a particularly significant time gain in this area, though it certainly requires no more time than Method 1. More significant was the time required to derive a structure. In the early calculation rounds, prior to the filtering process, Method 2 quickly began to show the correct fold after only two rounds. By contrast, the structures derived from the Method 1 restraints did not show similar results until the fifth round. This can be attributed to the increased amount of information present in the protocol restraints (due to the total reduction of ambiguity) leading to a *decreased* proportion of *incorrect* information. The Method 1 dataset contained a greater number of incorrect restraints than the Method 2 dataset and, as has been shown, the Method 2 dataset had more structurally significant information.

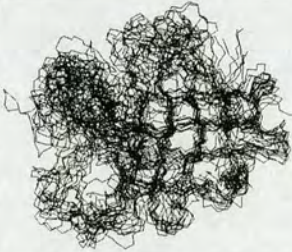

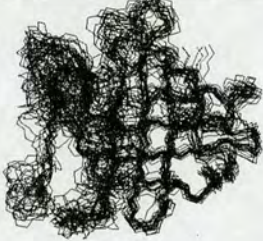
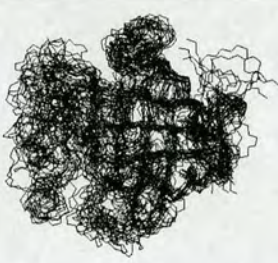

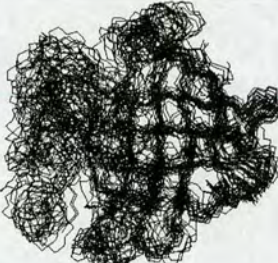

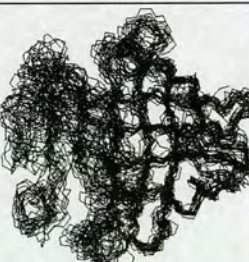
Round	Method 2	Rmsd (Å)	Method 1	Rmsd (Å)
1		2.93		4.63
2		2.09		3.56
3		1.97		2.77
4	-----			2.20
5	-----			2.02

Figure 5.7: Comparison of filtering steps performed using Method 1 and 2 assignments

5.1.3 Streamlining the Protocol

Comparing the structure calculation results of both methods show that Method 2 clearly outperforms Method 1, that is, it provides more, correct unambiguous information, sufficient to derive a better initial structure. The time taken in assigning the HNH-NOESY spectrum was quite considerable, however, and thus, prior to the assignment of the remaining spectra, an alternative, less detailed and faster assignment method was tested to see whether the total assignment time could be substantially reduced without a significant increase in incorrect or ambiguous assignment.

At its core, the assignment protocol for any peak consists of finding those assignment possibilities deemed valid by the existence of an appropriate peak in the complementary spectrum and then confirming or eliminating them by looking for symmetry related peaks. The first step (filtering assignment possibilities via the complementary spectrum) is already automated, and has been shown to produce valid assignments and the user is required only to search for symmetry related peaks. In the method described previously, this was achieved manually and a number of additional items were used to aid in choosing the correct assignment. A reduced interaction assignment protocol is possible whereby the user is only required to confirm or deny the existence of a symmetry related peak.

The first difference in this new scheme was the manner in which peak were submitted to the macro. With the HNH-NOESY and CNH-NOESY spectra both having been picked, it was decided that individually selecting the strips of peaks in these spectra to submit to the macro was unnecessary and, instead, the macro creates ‘virtual’ strips by grouping the peak objects together within Analysis according to their F_2 and F_3 assignments. The macro then automatically filters the assignment possibilities for a peak via the complementary spectrum. For each of the resulting possibilities, the user is automatically presented with the region of the appropriate spectrum corresponding to the expected location of a symmetry related peak. The user is then asked whether a

symmetry related peak exists and an interactive GUI query is displayed to receive the result of this decision. If it is deemed that a symmetry peak exists, the peak is assigned appropriately. As previously, if a peak has no matches in the complementary spectrum or no symmetry peaks are found, the peak remains unassigned. An example of this new macro in operation is given in Figure 5.8. In this example, the complementary spectrum is not shown – it is incorporated as a filter ‘behind the scenes’.

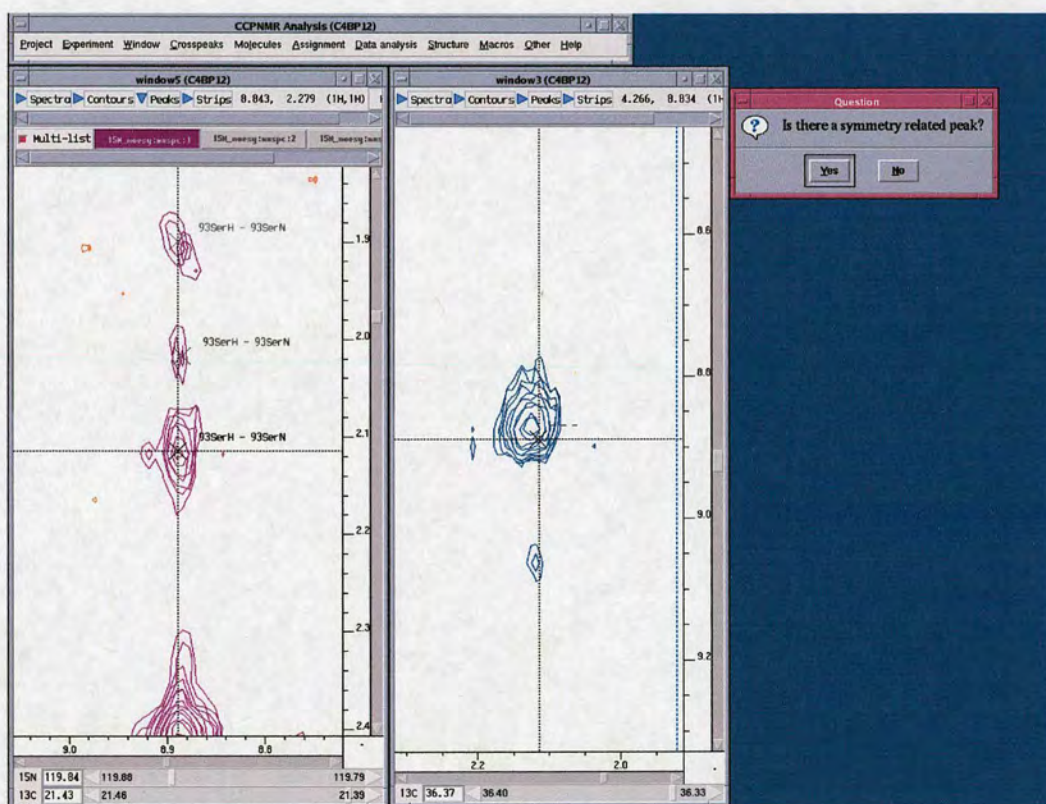


Figure 5.8: Screenshot showing the streamlined macro in operation. The HNH-NOESY peak being assigned is displayed (leftmost window) along with the appropriate region of the HCH-NOESY spectrum (center window), containing the expected symmetry related peak. The dialogue (rightmost window) is used to confirm whether the assignment possibility is supported by a symmetry related peak or not. In this case, a symmetry peak is present and the assignment is made.

Using this method, the user need not select which peaks are to be assigned (and used as assignment aids), the macro automatically groups the appropriate peaks together. Individually selecting the peaks to be used is still possible, however. Once a peak has been assigned (or examined but left unassigned) by the protocol, it is marked as such using the 'details' attribute of the peak to allow the macro to ignore it in future. The significant time reduction of this process comes from eliminating large parts of manual interaction – selecting the peaks to submitted to the macro, selecting the peak to be assigned, navigating to the expected symmetry peak location, deciding whether an assignment is valid on the basis of chemical shifts, intensities and symmetry related peaks. By reducing the procedure to its most basic components and employing automation to a large extent, this streamlined procedure results in far less time being spent on the assignment process – several strips can be assigned in the time taken to assign just a few peaks.

In order to test the performance of this alternative method, the assignment of the HNH-NOESY spectrum was repeated using the new macro. Only the peaks due to NOEs with aliphatic protons were reassigned since the H^N-H^N and H^N-H^{aro} peaks were assigned using the standard method and can therefore be assumed to remain the same. On testing this mode of operation on individual strips of the HNH-NOESY spectrum, it was found that, in general, the less detailed, faster method, gave assignments which were identical to those of the original, semi-automated method. In those few cases where the assignments were found to differ, this difference was due to allowing a peak of the complementary spectrum to contribute to more than one peak in the equivalent strip of the HNH-NOESY (and the existence of a supporting symmetry peak), thus resulting in a more ambiguous assignment for some peaks. This is a consequence of working without the additional assignment aids which were used in the initial implementation of Method 2 (e.g. used peaks, relative peak intensities). Following this second assignment, the two sets of assignments were compared to determine to what extent the two procedures differed in their degree of ambiguity. These results are given in Table 5.5.

Method 2	Unambiguous	Semi-ambiguous
Detailed	1867	635
Streamlined	1850	652

Table 5.5: Number of unambiguous and semi-ambiguous assignments produced via the detailed Protocol and streamlined Protocol methods

Of the 155 instances of ambiguity elimination between the Method 1 and Method 2 assignments identified in the previous analysis, the majority (148) are retained when the new Protocol is employed. The time required to perform the assignment in this case was on the order of one or two days for the 18 kDa BlgB. Thus, while there are differences in assignments between the two sets, these are minimal. The time saved by using this more basic implementation, however, is far more significant.

Therefore, using the less detailed assignment approach yields peak assignments which are sufficiently less ambiguous than those acquired using the standard method to give good structures more quickly and the process of assignment can be reduced to a much simpler scheme with little or no change to the eventual result.

Of course, the quickest method would be to also automate the symmetry peak finding, thus giving an effectively fully automatic macro, but to do this would require that all expected peaks be present and picked in all the relevant spectra. The non-ideal nature of these spectra would lead to incomplete peak lists and therefore any fully-automated protocol would be reliant upon data that were deficient. This may not be such a problem when using the HNH-NOESY and CNH-NOESY spectra, where symmetry-related peaks will appear in the less crowded $H^{\text{ali}}-H^{\text{N}}$ region of the HCH-NOESY, but would be more significant for assignment of the HCH- and HCH₃-edited NOESY spectra. In addition, the streamlined implementation of Method 2 achieves assignment in a time frame short enough to render further time gains in this area somewhat incidental. The

second implementation of the protocol was therefore selected as the optimal and used in all subsequent assignments.

5.2 The Remaining Complementary Experiments

With a working protocol in place, the remaining pairs of spectra were examined to assess their suitability for inclusion into the protocol.

5.2.1 CCH-NOESY

The Fourier-transformed spectrum, shown in Figure 5.9 is clean and of a good quality, however, the resolution of the ^{13}C dimensions is somewhat limited. This is due to the presence of the ^{13}C - ^{13}C coupling constants which evolve very quickly, forcing the use of very short acquisition times in these dimensions ($< 5\text{ms}$, cf. $\sim 20\text{ ms}$ for ^{15}N). This problem is common to the F_2 dimensions of both the HCH- and CCH-NOESY spectra and results in particular F_1F_3 plane containing many more peaks than would be found in corresponding planes in HNH- and CNH-NOESY. Significant overlap is therefore present, making it difficult to discern individual peaks and to work with individual strips when assigning. The problem is exaggerated in the CCH-NOESY spectrum since the transfer of magnetization is not 'orthogonal' (as in the CNH-NOESY). This results in the appearance of intense autocorrelation peaks which cause further crowding of the spectra. Such extensive overlap leads to extreme difficulties in using this spectrum as an assignment aid with large regions being too crowded to allow extraction of all the relevant data.

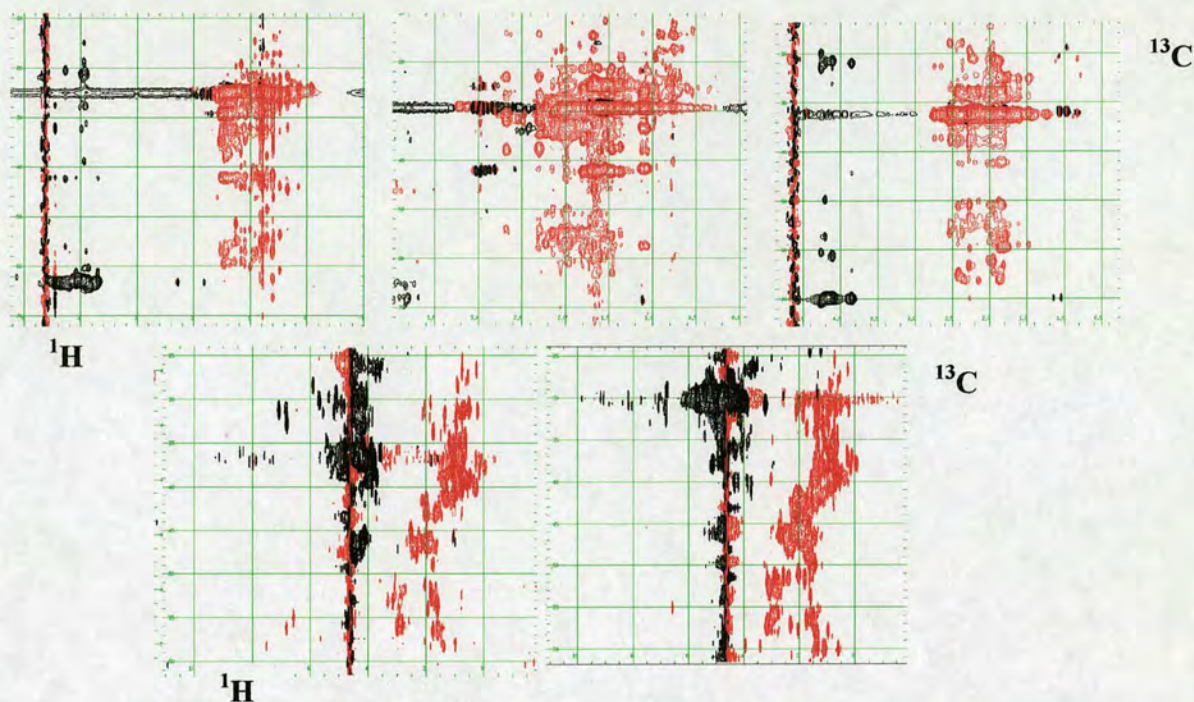


Figure 5.9: F_1F_3 planes (top) and F_2F_3 planes (bottom) of the CCH-NOESY spectrum

In an attempt to improve the resolution of the ^{13}C dimensions, maximum entropy processing was employed. This proved to be non-trivial, however, and, although various parameters were varied in an effort to improve the spectrum, processing by this method continually produced a spectrum in which large regions did not converge and were rendered unusable. Thus it was concluded that the use of maximum entropy processing available to us through AZARA was unsuitable in this case and that the Fourier-transformed spectrum must be used.

The CCH-NOESY spectrum suffers from limited resolution of the indirect dimensions and the extensive overlap of signals. In the HCH-NOESY spectrum, a large difficulty arises in the assignment of the spectrum due to the high degree of degeneracy which exists in the chemical shifts of aliphatic carbons. If this degeneracy is too high, it prevents unambiguous assignment of the NOE peak.

While the use of the CCH-NOESY spectrum is intended to remove this problem, if that spectrum itself is poorly resolved, the problem will only be compounded and the result will be no different, or perhaps even worse, than assignment without the complementary spectrum. The user must begin to operate by selecting only useable regions, giving a patchwork approach to the implementation of this spectrum in the protocol. If a high degree of uncertainty exists in both spectra, the usefulness of the complementary spectrum as an assignment aid is severely compromised. Of course, it is possible to apply the protocol using multiple F_2F_3 assignments but the degree of ambiguity would not be reduced as significantly as might be hoped and would certainly be less than in the case of well resolved spectra such as the HNH-NOESY and CNH-NOESY spectra. This spectrum was therefore excluded from the protocol.

5.2.2 NNH-NOESY

This spectrum was well resolved but presented a different problem in that, on examining the strips of the spectrum and comparing them to the equivalent ^{15}N -edited NOESY strips, it became apparent that the strips of the NNH-NOESY spectrum consistently contained far fewer peaks than expected. A comparison of the number of $\text{H}^{\text{N}}\text{-H}^{\text{N}}$ and $\text{N}^{\text{H}}\text{-H}^{\text{N}}$ peaks present in equivalent strips of the HNH-NOESY and NNH-NOESY spectra is given in Table 5.6. In this case, each peak in the complementary spectrum would be generally be expected to correspond to one peak in the standard spectrum (amide ^1H 's) or, more rarely, two peaks (amine ^1H 's).

Spectrum	No. peaks
HNH-NOESY	118 ^a
NNH-NOESY	22

Table 5.6: Numbers of NH peaks present in 30 equivalent strips of the HNH-NOESY and NNH-NOESY spectra. ^aThis is the number of peaks present in the amide/amine ^1H region of each strip.

Clearly, the NNH-NOESY spectrum gives a considerably poor result with only ca. 19% of the number of peaks present in the H^N-H^N region of the HNH-NOESY spectrum. Such a large discrepancy indicates a severe lack of signal in this spectrum and suggests that its use in the protocol may be limited. On further examination, the NNH-NOESY spectrum is seen to contain little to no useful information throughout, with the only significant peaks apparently those of intra-residue and sequential NOE's. Some of the clearest examples are shown in fig 5.10. In these examples it can be seen that, while the HNH-NOESY strips contain at least 5 N^H-N^H crosspeaks in each case, the corresponding NNH-NOESY strips show only one or zero crosspeaks.

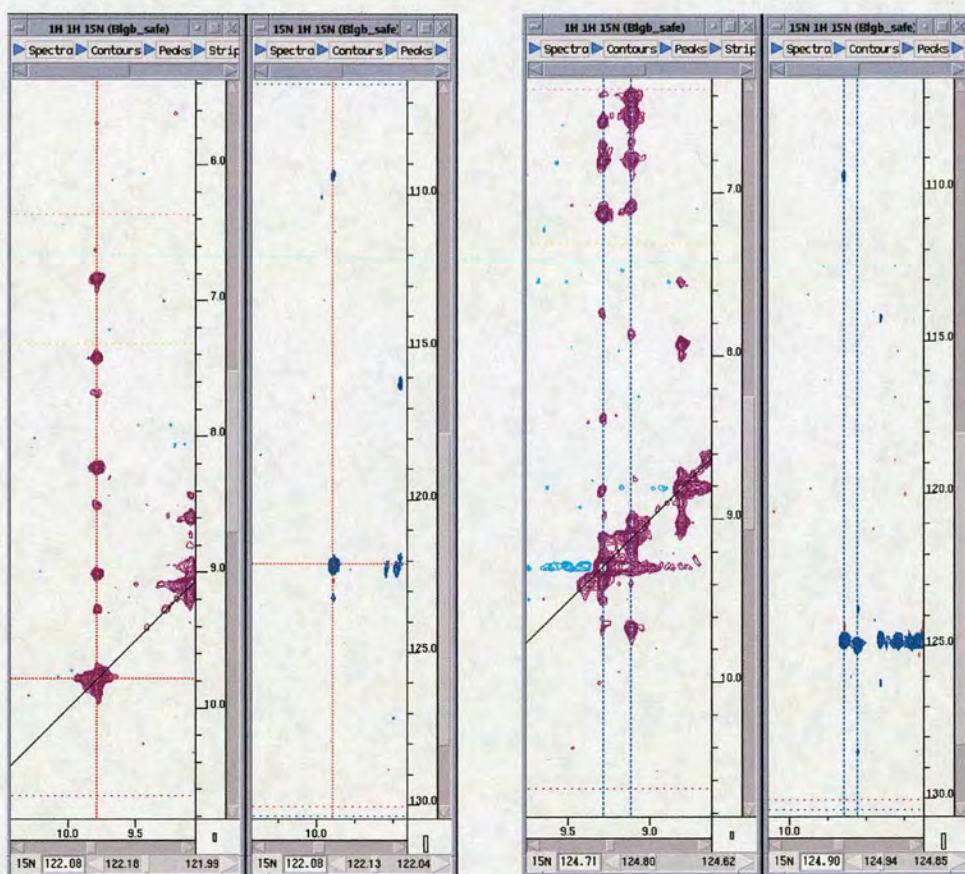


Figure 5.10: HNH-NOESY strips (in purple, showing H^N-H^N region) with equivalent strips of the NNH-NOESY spectrum (shown in blue).

The quantity of signal is clearly insufficient and, thus, filtering assignment possibilities via this spectrum would produce either no unambiguous assignments or, worse, incorrect assignments. Furthermore, the HNH-NOESY spectrum is well resolved and, in general, ^{15}N shifts show a high degree of dispersion, lessening the need for a complementary spectrum to reduce assignment ambiguity. Inclusion of the NNH-NOESY spectrum in the Protocol was therefore deemed ineffective and unnecessary.

5.2.3 CCH₃-NOESY

As with the CCH-NOESY experiment, this experiment also contains two ^{13}C dimensions but, since it only contains signals from methyl groups (and some sidechain CHs), there is far less overlap in the spectrum. The problem of poor resolution in the ^{13}C dimension is effectively removed due to the high digital resolution employed in the second ^{13}C dimension.

The signal density is also favourable, as shown in Table 5.7 with the CCH₃-NOESY strips containing ca. 65 % of the peaks present in the HCH₃-NOESY strips. The HCH₃-NOESY and CCH₃-NOESY were therefore also chosen to be included in the protocol.

Spectrum	No. peaks
HCH ₃ -NOESY	244 ^a
CCH ₃ -NOESY	160

Table 5.7: Numbers of peaks present in 30 equivalent strips of the HCH₃- and CCH₃-NOESY spectra. ^aThis is the number of peaks present in the aliphatic ^1H region of each strip

5.3 Assignment of HCH₃-NOESY

The HCH₃-NOESY spectrum was assigned with the aid of the CCH₃-NOESY spectrum using the streamlined Protocol (section 5.1.3). Again, the HCH-NOESY spectrum was used to look for symmetry related peaks. As with the HNH-NOESY spectrum, assignment was carried out simultaneously via Method 1. The results of assignment via the two methods are given in Table 5.8.

Method	Unambiguous	Semi-ambiguous	Ambiguous
1	852	617	330
2	968	487	344

Table 5.8: Comparison of peak assignments in the HCH₃-NOESY spectrum obtained via Methods 1 and 2. These are the totals prior to removal of erroneous and duplicate assignments.

As with the HNH-NOESY spectrum, assignment via Method 2 generates more unambiguous assignments. Prior to calculating the number of cases of ambiguity elimination and reduction, erroneous assignments were removed by performing a retrospective analysis of the restraint data using the final structures of BlgB given in section 6.4. Duplicate restraints present in the datasets were also removed. The number of ambiguity elimination and reduction events, and their NOE classes were then calculated. The results are shown in Table 5.9.

Event	Sequential	Short	Long
Ambiguity Elimination	9	39	75
Ambiguity Reduction	12	60	65

Table 5.9: Breakdown of ambiguity elimination and reduction events identified in assigning the HCH₃-NOESY spectrum via Method 2 compared to assignment via Method 1.

In total, the ambiguity elimination and reduction events represent ca. 25 % of the CH₃-H^{ali} restraints.

Thus, as was seen for the HNH-NOESY, assignment via Method 2 gives restraints which are not only less ambiguous than their standard method counterparts but, of the less ambiguous restraints, the majority are concentrated in the short- and long-range NOE types. The significance of the ambiguity elimination events is also supported by a QUEEN analysis of the (correct) unambiguous restraints produced by Method 2, shown in Figure 5.11. Again, as was the case with the HNH-NOESY, these events are also seen to be among the most unique pieces of information present in the dataset.

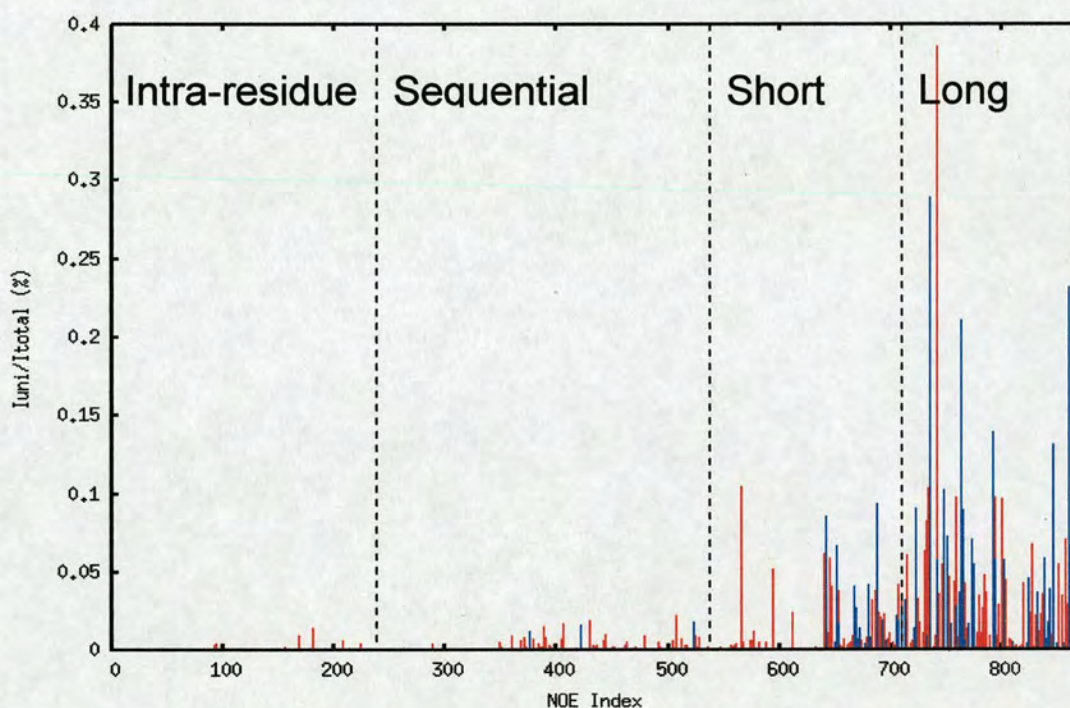


Figure 5.11: Plot of $I_{\text{uni}}/I_{\text{total}}$ values for unambiguous HCH₃-NOESY restraints obtained via Method 2. Restraints which correspond to ambiguity elimination events are in blue

Furthermore, the number of incorrect assignments obtained via Method 2 is also less than for Method 1. In total, of the 2803 unambiguous HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints obtained via Method 2, 123 (ca. 4%) were found to be incorrect whereas, for Method 1, 221 of the 2572 unambiguous restraints were incorrect (ca. 9%).

5.4 The Protocol thus far

Of the four complementary BlgB spectra which were acquired and tested, two were identified as the most useful spectra for inclusion in the protocol owing to their good resolution and suitable signal density. These were the CNH-NOESY (for use with the HNH-NOESY) and the CCH₃-NOESY (for use with the HCH₃-NOESY).

Of the two implementations of Method 2 which were tested, the second was chosen to be the most useful. This implementation provided almost identical assignments to those obtained via the more detailed first implementation and in much less time.

Assignment of both the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra via Method 2 resulted in a modest increase (ca. 7% for HNH-NOESY and 14% for HCH₃-NOESY) in the number of unambiguous assignments relative to assignments obtained via Method 1. However, these additional unambiguous assignments were largely comprised of more structurally significant NOEs and the information content of these restraints was also shown to be among the highest in each dataset. This resulted in preliminary structures with better convergence being obtained more quickly than in the same process conducted using the Method 1 restraints. The reduced ambiguity events also formed a significant portion of the total restraint data (30% of the semi-ambiguous assignments obtained via Method 2 were less ambiguous than their Method 1 counterparts) and, again, improved the efficiency of the structure calculation process relative to Method 1.

The BlgB structures obtained thus far (using only the HNH-NOESY restraints), although of a reasonable quality, still require improvement. The HCH₃-NOESY restraints must be included and their effect on the structures assessed. Furthermore, the information which exists in the HCH-NOESY experiment must also be considered and incorporated into the full protocol in some way. This is the subject of the following chapter.

Chapter 6

BlgB

6.1 Background

β -lactoglobulin is a small homodimeric protein (~18 kDa monomer) found in the milk of many animals, but not in humans (Hambling et al., 1992). Its two most common forms (A and B) differ by only two amino acids (in variant A, Ala118 is Val and Gly64 is Asp) and, of these, the low pH NMR structure has been solved for the A variant (Uhrinova et al., 1998, 2000). Under these conditions, the protein undergoes a structural change and exists in a partially unfolded state as a monomer. X-ray structures of both variants have been solved at a range of pH values close to physiological pH (Oliviera et al., 2001; Brownlow et al., 1997; Qin et al., 1998, 1999). The NMR-derived structures of BlgA show that the low pH monomer retains the majority of structural features of the dimer. The properties of variants A and B are markedly more dissimilar than their sequences, however, exhibiting different aggregation properties during milk processing (Hill et al., 1996). An understanding of the origins of this difference in behaviour is therefore of significant interest to the dairy industry. The amino acid sequence of BlgB is given below and the X-ray structure of BlgB is shown in Figure 6.1, consisting of a calyx formed by 8 β -strands (A-H) with a three-turn α -helix running parallel to the A, F, G and H strands and a final β -strand, I, at the C-terminus. Blg exhibits a number of pH-induced transitions known collectively as the Tanford transition (Tanford, 1959), with the principal structural difference being the position of the EF loop which, at low pH, moves to cover the opening of the calyx (Qin et al., 1998).

-3 VPM

1 LIVTQTMKGL DIQKVAGTWY SLAMAASDIS LLDAQSAPLR

41 VYVEELKPTP EGDLEILLQK WENGEC AQKK IIAEKTIPA

81 VFKIDALNEN KVLVLDTDYK KYLLFCMENS AEPEQSLACQ

121 CLVRTPEVDD EALEKFDKAL KALPMHIRLS FNPTQLEEQC

161 HI

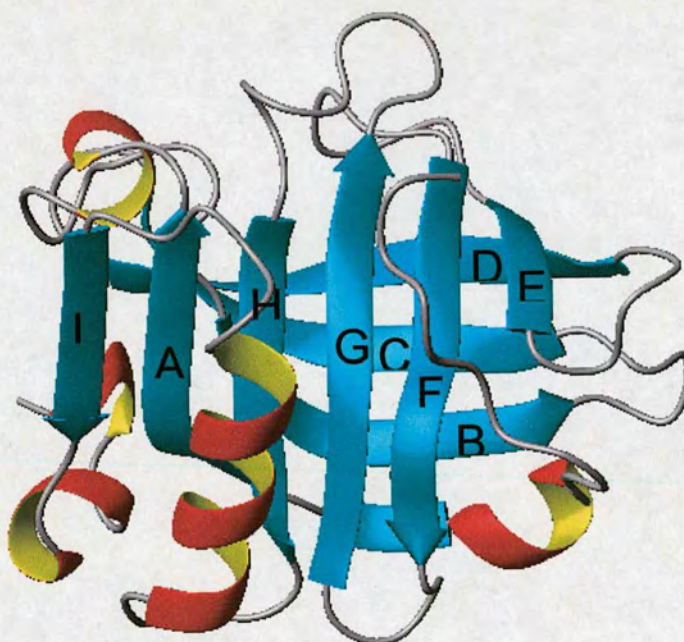


Figure 6.1: Cartoon representation of the X-ray structure of BlgB generated using MolMol

6.2 Experimental

6.2.1 Resonance Assignment Experiments

The resonance assignment experiments detailed in section 3.3 were acquired on the BlgB (monomer) sample on a Bruker Avance 600 MHz spectrometer equipped with a 5mm triple-axis gradient, triple resonance probe. All spectra were recorded at 310 K. The offsets used for ^1H and ^{15}N were 4.63 ppm and 118.3 ppm respectively. For ^{13}C , the

offset was 41.50 ppm except for the HCCH-TOCSY (66.0 ppm), (HB)CB(CGCD)HD & (HB)CB(CGCDCE)HE (34.8 ppm) and aromatic HSQC (124.8 ppm) experiments. Spectral folding was employed for all ^{15}N dimensions and for the ^{13}C dimension of the HCCH-TOCSY. The acquisition parameters are summarised in Table 6.1.

Experiment	No. Dims	No. points	Sweep Widths (Hz)
^{15}N - ^1H -HSQC	2	1024 x 64	8389 x 1458
HBHA(CO)NH	3	1024 x 64 x 96	8389 x 1458 x 6400
CBCA(CO)NH	3	1024 x 64 x 128	8389 x 1458 x 11312
HNCACB	3	1024 x 64 x 128	8389 x 1458 x 11312
H(C)(CO)NH	3	1024 x 70 x 128	8389 x 1458 x 4198
(H)C(CO)NH	3	1024 x 70 x 128	8389 x 1458 x 11312
HCCH-TOCSY	3	1024 x 64 x 128	8389 x 5731 x 4198
(HB)CB(CGCD)HD	2	1024 x 96	8389 x 5634
(HB)CB(CGCDCE)HE	2	1024 x 96	8389 x 5634
Aromatic HSQC	2	1024 x 248	8389 x 8049

Table 6.1: Acquisition parameters for the resonance assignment experiments acquired for BlgB

All spectra were processed using the program AZARA. For spectra which were Fourier transformed, the data were zero-filled once in each dimension. For the H(C)(CO)NH, (H)C(CO)NH and HCCH-TOCSY experiments, maximum entropy processing was used for the indirectly detected dimensions.

6.2.2 NOESY experiments

All NOESY experiments were acquired on a Bruker Avance 800MHz spectrometer equipped with a 5mm triple axis gradient, triple resonance probe. All spectra were recorded at 310 K. ^1H and ^{15}N offsets were 4.62 ppm and 118.3 ppm respectively. Prior to the acquisition of the methyl-selective experiments, a 2D constant-time, methyl-selective ^{13}C - ^1H -HSQC was acquired to obtain suitable offset and sweep width

parameters for appropriate folding of the methyl region. All NOE mix times were 100 ms.

HNH- HCH- & HCH₃-NOESY

The HNH-NOESY experiment was acquired with 1980 points in the directly detected ¹H dimension (t_3) and with 144 and 80 points in the indirect ¹H (t_1) and ¹⁵N (t_2) dimensions respectively. Sweep widths (Hz) were 10416 x 1946 x 9599 (t_3 x t_2 x t_1). 8 scans were acquired for each increment giving a total acquisition time of 72 hours and 45 minutes. The processing of this spectrum was carried out using AZARA using maximum entropy in the indirect dimensions to bring the total size of the spectrum to 2048x128x512 ($F_3 \times F_2 \times F_1$).

The HCH-NOESY experiment was acquired with 2048 points in the directly detected ¹H dimension (t_3) and with 224 and 64 points in the indirect ¹H (t_1) and ¹³C (t_2) dimensions respectively. Spectral folding was employed in the ¹³C dimension with a ¹³C offset of 66.0 ppm. Sweep widths (Hz) were 10416 x 7646 x 9599 (t_3 x t_2 x t_1). 16 scans were acquired for each increment giving a total acquisition time of 94 hours and 30 minutes. The processing of this spectrum was carried out using AZARA using maximum entropy in the indirect dimensions to bring the total size of the spectrum to 2048x256x512 ($F_3 \times F_2 \times F_1$).

The HCH₃-NOESY experiment was acquired with 1024 points in the directly detected ¹H dimension (t_3) and with 196 and 128 points in the indirect ¹H (t_1) and ¹³C (t_2) dimensions respectively. Spectral folding was employed in the ¹³C dimension with a ¹³C offset of 17.3 ppm. Sweep widths (Hz) were 10416 x 4930 x 9599 (t_3 x t_2 x t_1). 8 scans were acquired for each increment giving a total acquisition time of 86 hours. The processing of this spectrum was carried out using AZARA using maximum entropy in the indirect dimensions to bring the total size of the spectrum to 1024x512x512 ($F_3 \times F_2 \times F_1$).

CNH- and CCH₃-NOESY

The CNH-NOESY experiment was acquired with 1280 points in the directly detected ¹H dimension (t_3) and with 160 and 80 points in the indirect ¹³C (t_1) and ¹⁵N (t_2) dimensions respectively. Sweep widths (Hz) were 10416 x 1946 x 15094 ($t_3 \times t_2 \times t_1$). The ¹³C offset was set to 41.5 ppm; no spectral folding being used in this dimension. 16 scans were acquired for each increment giving a total acquisition time of 88 hours. The processing of this spectrum was carried out using AZARA using maximum entropy in the indirect dimensions to bring the total size of the spectrum to 2048 x 128 x 256 ($F_3 \times F_2 \times F_1$).

For the CCH₃-NOESY experiment, acquisition was performed with 2048 points in the directly detected dimension, 128 points in the indirect methyl-¹³C dimension (t_2) and 160 points in the indirect ¹³C-aliphatic dimension (t_3). 16 scans were acquired for each increment giving a total acquisition time of 76 hours 30 minutes. Sweep widths (Hz) were 10416 x 4930 x 15094 ($t_3 \times t_2 \times t_1$). Spectral folding of the ¹³CH₃ dimension was employed with a ¹³C offset of 17.3 ppm. For the first ¹³C HSQC the ¹³C offset was set at 41.5 ppm. The processing of this spectrum was carried out using AZARA using maximum entropy in the indirect dimensions to bring the total size of the spectrum to 2048 x 128 x 512 ($F_3 \times F_2 \times F_1$).

6.3 Resonance assignment

6.3.1 Backbone

The majority of the backbone resonance assignment of BlgB was carried out by Patrick Edwards using the CBCA(CO)NH, HNCACB and HBHA(CO)NH experiments. No assignments were made for residues -3 to 3 at the N terminus and, at the C terminus, residues 153-162 were also unassigned. Prior to commencing the sidechain assignment, these spectra were investigated again in order to acquire backbone assignments for these

residues. The assignment program ANSIG (Kraulis, 1989) was used to assign these spectra. After a close inspection, assignments were obtained for residues -1 to 3 and residues 152 to 158. The ^{15}N - ^1H HSQC spectrum is shown in Figure 6.2

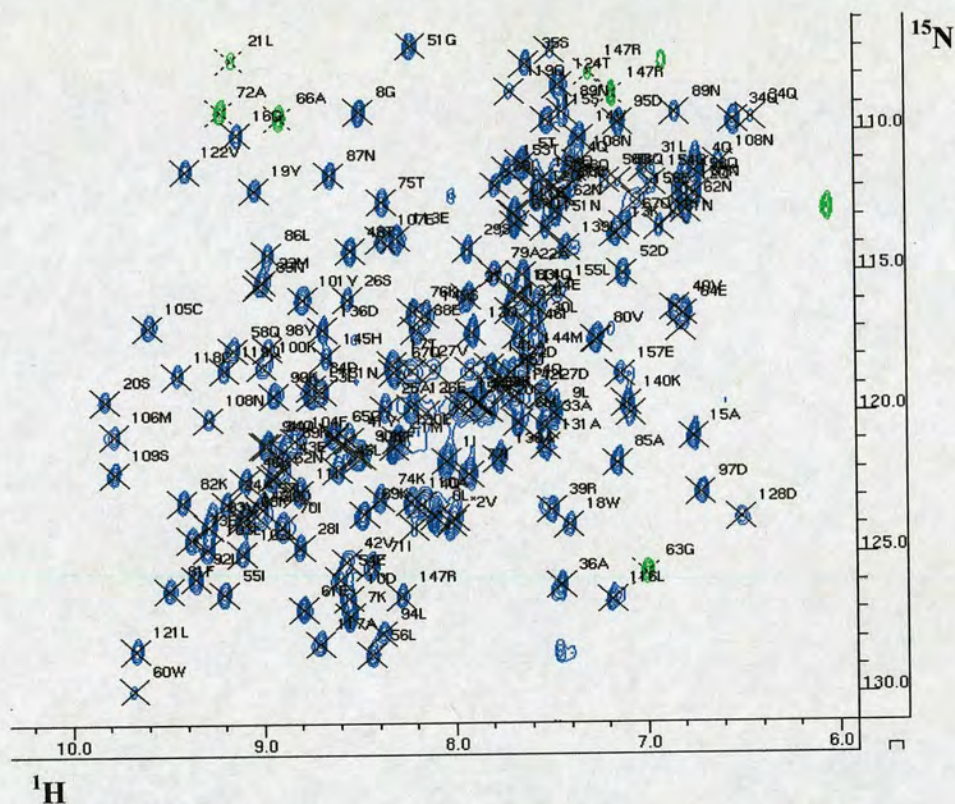


Figure 6.2: ^{15}N - ^1H -HSQC of BlgB. Aliased peaks appear negative (shown in green)

HNCACB strips illustrating the connectivities established for residues 154 to 158 are shown in Figure 6.3 and the corresponding HBHA(CO)NH strips are shown in Figure 6.4.

Backbone assignments were thus obtained for all but 5 residues (-3V, 159Q-162I). While there remain some unidentified peaks in the ^1H - ^{15}N -HSQC spectrum, the corresponding strips of the backbone experiments contained too few peaks to allow further connectivities to be established and thus assignment was not possible for these. No experiments were acquired for assignment of the carbonyl groups.

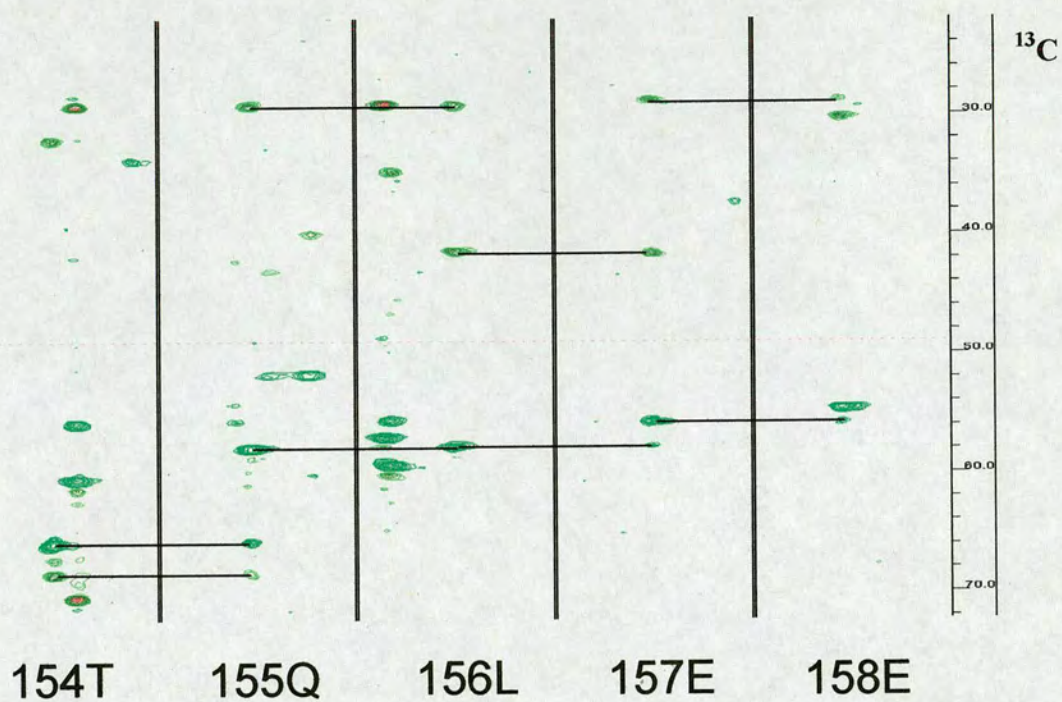


Figure 6.3: Strips of HNCACB spectrum of BlgB

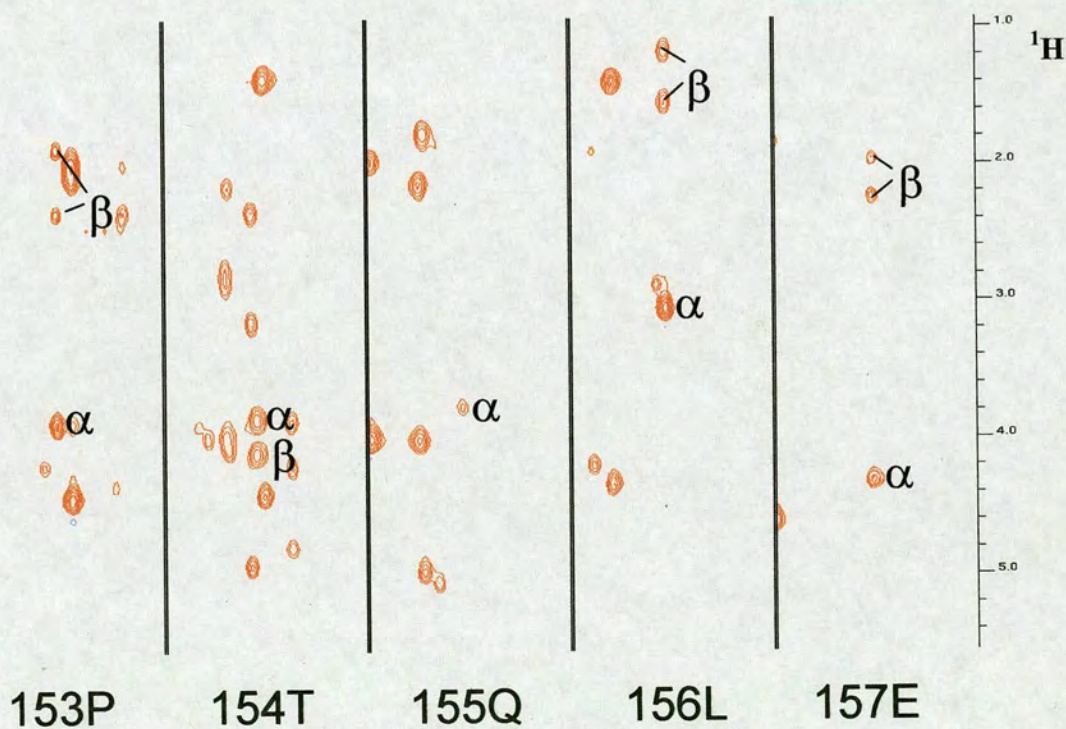


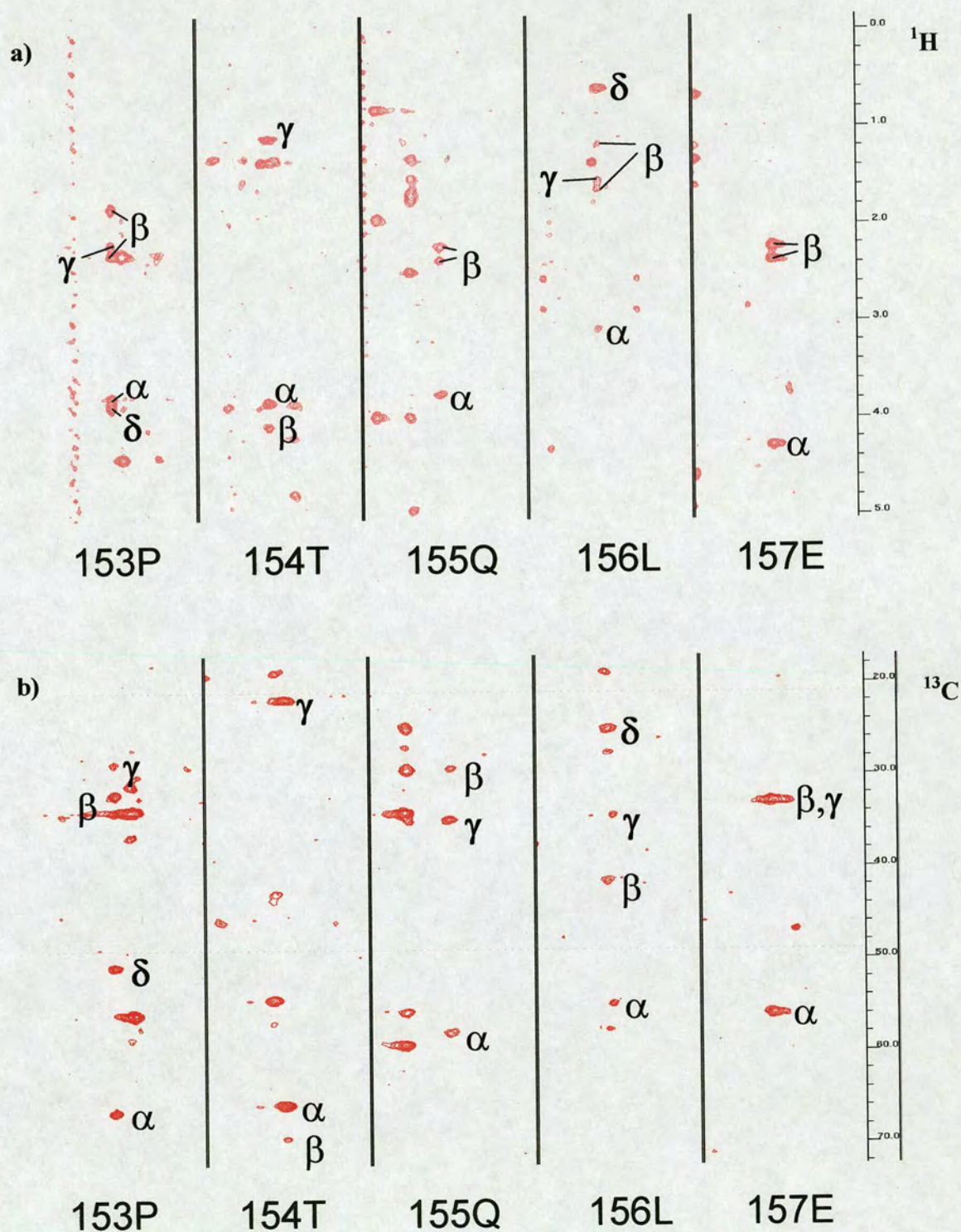
Figure 6.4: Strips of the HBHA(CO)NH spectrum of BlgB

6.3.2 Sidechain Assignment

For the sidechain assignments, the H(C)(CO)NH, (H)C(CO)NH and HCCH-TOCSY experiments were acquired and assigned as described previously. Figures 6.5 a) and b) show representative strips of the first two spectra focusing on the newly assigned residues. Assignment of the H(C)(CO)NH and (H)C(CO)NH experiments yielded the majority of the sidechain resonances but, in some cases, it was not possible to identify a particular resonance due to the signal overlap. In these cases, use of the HCCH-TOCSY enabled identification of the individual resonances. Assignment of the sidechain amine groups was achieved by referring to the ^{15}N -edited NOESY spectrum as described. In this way, full sidechain assignments were obtained for 111 (of 153) non-aromatic residues. Of the remaining, partially assigned residues it was not possible to identify peaks corresponding to the majority of the exchangeable sidechain resonances. Of the Arg residues, none of the N^{ϵ} , H^{ϵ} and branching NH_2 groups were assigned, and none of the N^{ζ} and H^{ζ} resonances of Lys residues were identified. OH resonances of Ser and Thr were also unassigned. The assignment of C^{β} of the Trp residues was not possible as only the C^{α} nuclei of these residues were ^{13}C -labelled.

6.3.3 Aromatic assignments

Assignment of the aromatic sidechain resonances was achieved using the (HB)CB(CGCD)HD, (HB)CBCGCDCE)HE and aromatic-HSQC spectra, which are shown in Figure 6.6.

Figure 6.5: Strips of a) the $^1\text{H}(\text{C})(\text{CO})\text{NH}$ and b) the $(^1\text{H})\text{C}(\text{CO})\text{NH}$ spectra

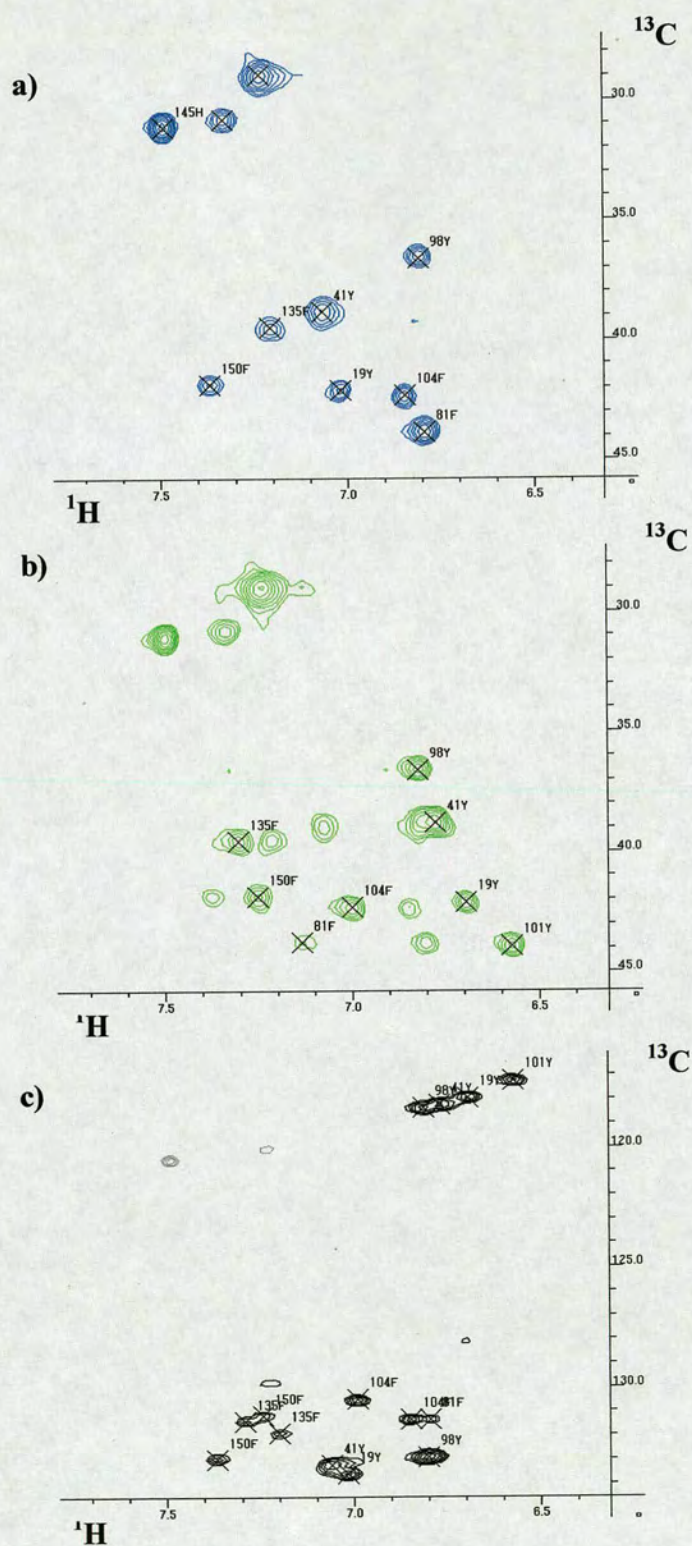


Figure 6.6: a) (HB)CB(CGCD)HD b) (HB)CBCGCDCE)HE and c) Aromatic HSQC spectra

The (HB)CB(CGCD)HD and (HB)CB(CGCDCE)HE provided H^δ and H^ϵ assignments for all Phe and Tyr residues with the exception of 101Tyr, whose H^δ resonance overlapped with that of Phe81. The Aromatic-HSQC experiment was therefore required to determine the chemical shift of this resonance. The labile Tyr OH protons do not appear. Assignment of the four Phe H^z protons was not possible due to their signals being too closely overlapped (not shown in figure). Of the two His residues, only one had a C^β assignment and, thus, only this H^δ was identified. Since only the C^α of Trp residues were ^{13}C enriched, the Trp aromatic signals could not be assigned in this way. While other methods could be used to obtain the Trp ^1H sidechain resonances, it was decided that this was unnecessary as the BlgB sequence contains only two Trp residues.

6.3.4 Assignment Summary

With the exception of $^{13}\text{C}'$ resonances and the labile OH resonances complete assignment was achieved for 111 of 165 residues. If the labile Lys and Arg sidechain resonances are also excluded, the total number of completely assigned residues is increased to 129. In total, the backbone assignment was 95% completed and the sidechain assignment 91% complete. This was considered to be near-complete assignment of the protein and, thus, assignment of the NOESY spectrum could commence.

The resulting C^α , H^α and C^β chemical shifts were used to generate a consensus chemical shift index (CSI) to predict the secondary structure elements of the protein, the results of which are illustrated in Figure 6.7.

The secondary structure features predicted by the CSI (Wishart & Sykes, 1994) correspond to the X-ray structure of BlgB with nine β -strands and a single α -helix. This information was used to generate 110 dihedral angle restraints corresponding to those angles most favoured by β -strands and α -helices for use in the structure calculation.

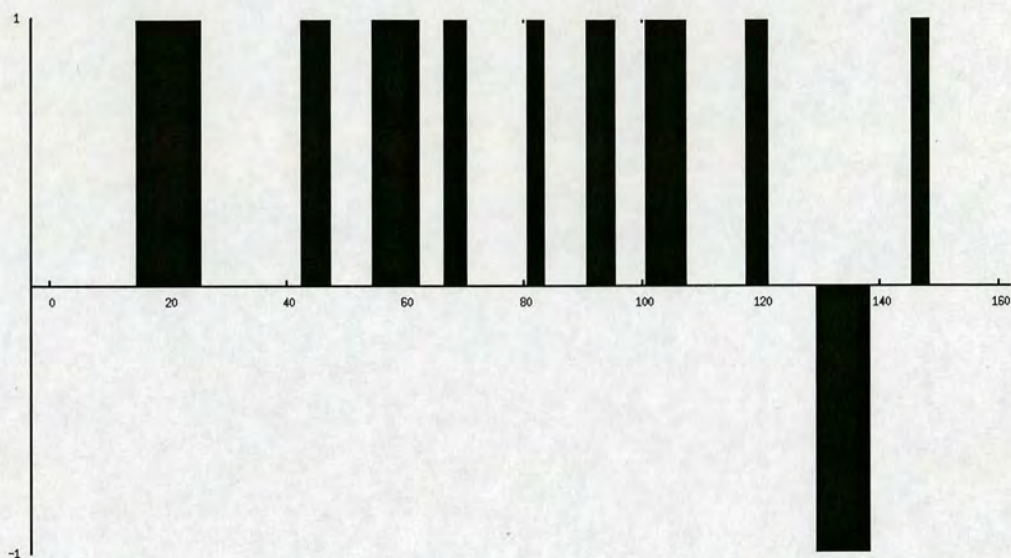


Figure 6.7: Consensus CSI for BlgB. Regions where >3 consecutive residues display an index of 1 indicate β -sheet and -1, α -helix.

6.4 NOESY Assignment and Structure Calculation

The HNH-, CNH-, HCH₃-, CCH₃- and HCH-NOESY spectra were loaded into an Analysis project along with the chemical shift table obtained from the resonance assignment. The assignment of the HNH-NOESY and HCH₃-NOESY spectra was performed via the streamlined implementation of Method 2 as described previously resulting in 2818 unambiguous peaks for use in the first round of structure calculation. The peak assignments were converted into restraints using the 'Make Distance Restraints' function of analysis and exported as ARIA restraint tables. These restraints were used to calculate 100 structures. Following the checking and treatment of violations, the total number of unique, unambiguous HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY peaks was 2510.

The family of structures thus obtained, shown in Figure 6.8a, had somewhat poor backbone rmsds (for residues 3-155) of only 2.1 Å but this is largely due to the less well defined loops. Considering only α -helix and β -sheet secondary structure elements gives a much better rmsd of 1.7 Å although, at this stage, the α -helix was very poorly defined.

The lowest energy structures were then used to filter the semi-ambiguous restraints. In total, 1226 restraints were submitted to the process. In this filtering step, restraints contribution less than 1% of the intensity of the peak were discarded. Prior to the next round of calculations, the violations identified by the checking process were examined. Only one further filtering round was employed, again with restraints contributing less than 1% of the peak intensity being discarded – additional rounds showing no further improvement in the structure. The addition of these restraints gave a much improved structure ensemble (backbone rmsd 1.44 Å) as shown in Figure 6.8b and increased the total number of converged structures to 25.

Thus, after three rounds of calculations, the final set of restraints were added – the completely ambiguous restraints. As before, these restraints were filtered using the structure ensemble of the previous calculation. After two further rounds of calculations, filtering of the ambiguous restraints did not improve the structure of subsequent rounds and thus, this was considered the conclusion of the calculation with respect to the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra. The resulting ensemble is shown in Figure 6.8c with the energy profile and structural statistics for this ensemble given in Figure 6.9 and Tables 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4. 30 structures were selected for the analysis on the basis of the jump in the rmsd profile in Figure 6.9.

The structures thus obtained are of good quality; exhibiting low rmsds (0.96 Å, backbone) and the small number of NOE violations indicate that the structures are consistent with the experimental data. However, it is still possible to improve the quality of the structures since a good deal of NOE information remains unused in the HCH-

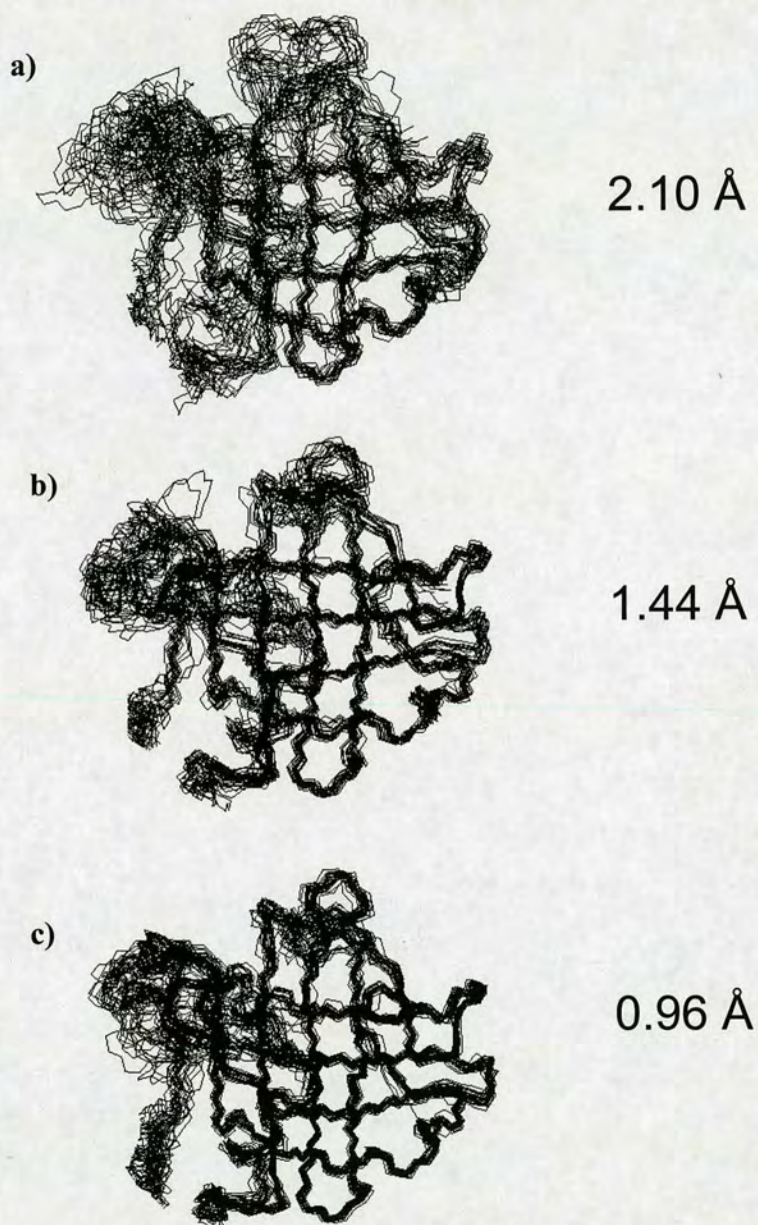


Figure 6.8: Summary of the structure calculations for BlgB performed using the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraint data. Showing an overlay of the lowest energy structures obtained using, a), unambiguous (20/100), b), unambiguous and semi-ambiguous (25/100), and, c), unambiguous, semi-ambiguous and completely ambiguous restraints (30/100), c). Backbone rmsd's are given in each case for residues 3-155. Residues -3 to -1 and 156-161 have been omitted.

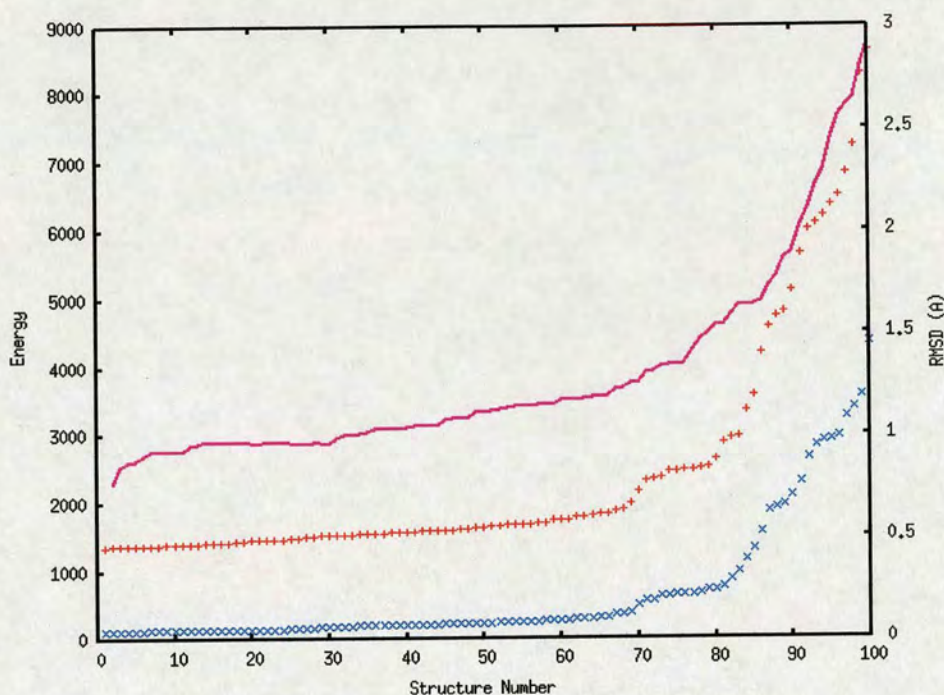


Figure 6.9: Plot of total potential energy (red), NOE energy (blue) and backbone rmsd (for residues 3-155, magenta) for the structures calculated using all HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints.

NOE Type	No. Restraints ^a
Intra-residue	1046
Sequential	1301
Short ($2 \leq i-j \leq 4$)	418
Long ($i-j \geq 4$)	909
Ambiguous	822

Atoms ^b	Rmsd ^c
Backbone	0.96 Å (0.75)
Heavy	1.32 Å (1.10)

Violations	
NOE (>0.3 Å)	5
Torsion Angle (>1.5 Hz)	3

Tables 6.2, 6.3 & 6.4: NOE and structure statistics for the ensemble of structures (30 of 100) calculated using all HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints.^a These are the number of unambiguous and semi-ambiguous restraints ^b Overlaid on residues 3-155 ^cNumbers in parenthesis are the rmsds for overlays on the β -sheets and α -helix only.

NOESY spectrum. Only restraints derived from the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra have been used thus far. The HCH-NOESY spectrum, which has also been acquired but used only indirectly (to check for symmetry related peaks) will therefore contain much more information that may be used to further refine these structures. Obtaining this extra information is made much simpler at this stage by employing the ensemble of structures as a template for filtering the HCH-NOESY restraints.

The regions of the HCH-NOESY which were selected were those which contained restraint information not present in the HNH- or HCH₃-NOESY spectra i.e. H^α to H^{aro} and H^{ali}; H^{aro} to H^{ali}; H^{ali} to H^{aro} and H^{ali}. Regions of the spectrum close to the diagonal were excluded due to the intense signal in this area which would increase the likelihood of picking erroneous peaks. H^α-H^α and H^{aro}-H^{aro} correlations were therefore not obtained. Regions representing NOEs to H^N were not selected since these had already been selected in the HNH-NOESY. The selected regions are represented diagrammatically in Figure 6.10.

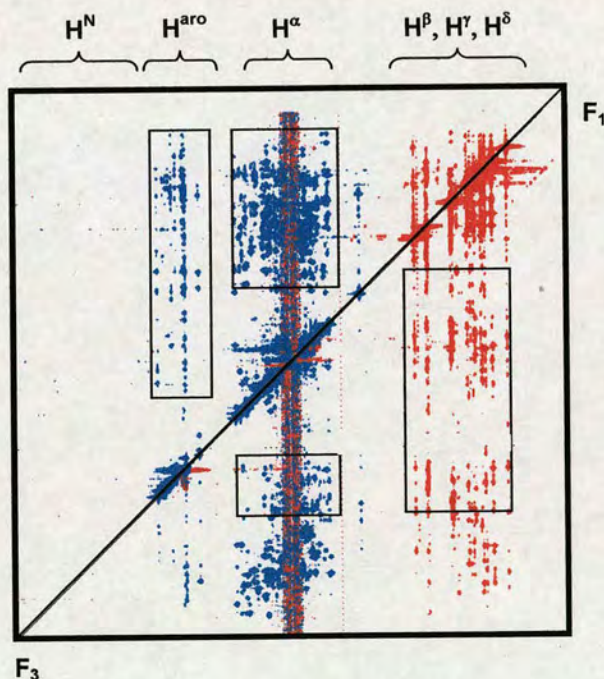


Figure 6.10: Diagrammatic representation of the four regions (in terms of F₁ and F₃) of the ¹³C-edited NOESY spectrum selected for peak picking.

These regions were submitted to the Region Peak Find feature of the Analysis program to automatically pick the peaks therein, considerably reducing the time spent peak picking. By this method, the user selects a region of the 3D spectrum, specifying the maximum and minimum ppm ranges for each dimension. The program then proceeds to find the maxima (or minima) within that region. To reduce the likelihood that artefacts or noise were selected each plane examined to ensure it was free of any undesirable features. In this way the four regions were examined and picked, yielding a total of 3447 peaks.

This was by no means the total potential information but represents a large portion of the available data and, importantly, required no laborious manual peak picking. It should be noted here that while this appears to be a significant increase in the amount of restraint data, some of it will be degenerate due not only to duplication of restraints within the HCH-NOESY spectrum but also to the duplication of peaks already present and assigned in the HCH₃-NOESY spectrum. Once the peaks had been picked, the planes were manually re-examined to confirm that only ‘true’ peaks had been picked. *The peaks were not assigned in any dimension.* These ambiguously assigned peaks were then exported as restraints using the ‘Shift Match Distance Constraints’ function of Analysis and filtered using the structure ensemble obtained previously. In total, 2407 unique restraints were used. Progressive filtering of these restraints in a further three rounds of calculations gave the final structure ensemble. A further structure refinement step was then performed by recalculating this final ensemble in water.

The additional HCH-NOESY restraints result in an increased number of converged structures (60) and improved rmsds as shown in figures 6.11 and 6.12 and in Table 6.4. Thus, while the structure obtained using the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints was of good quality, a significant improvement (33% reduction in backbone rmsd) is obtained on introducing the restraints from selected regions of the HCH-NOESY. This improvement is achieved quickly and easily via the use of the existing structure ensemble.

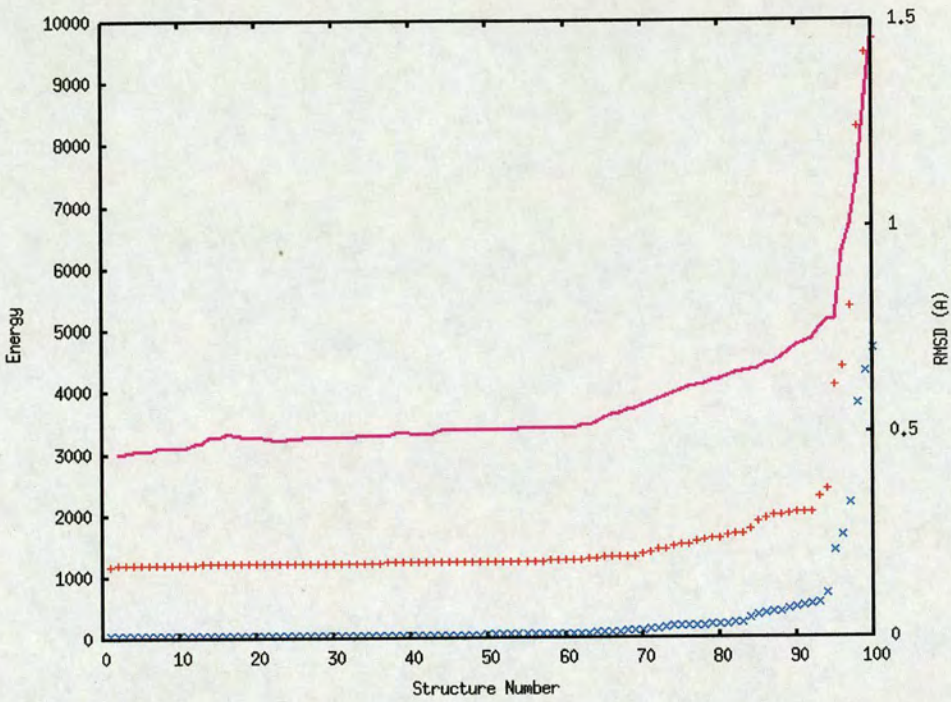


Figure 6.11: Plot of total potential energy (red), NOE energy (blue) and backbone rmsd (for residues 3-155, magenta) for the structures calculated using all HNH- HCH₃- and HCH-NOESY restraints.



Atoms	Rmsd (Å) ^a
Backbone	0.64 Å (0.44)
Heavy	1.04 Å (0.86)

Figure 6.12 & Table 6.4: Overlay (on residues 3-155) and rmsds of the final structure ensemble of BlgB (60/100). ^a Numbers in parenthesis are the rmsds for overlays on the β -sheets and α -helix only.

The full and final Protocol therefore comprises assignment of HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra via the streamlined implementation of Method 2 and subsequent structure calculation followed by the addition of filtered, completely ambiguous HCH-NOESY data. This full Protocol is assessed again, on a second protein, in the next chapter.

It should be noted that BlgB is principally composed of β -sheets. For α -helical proteins, the H $^{\alpha}$ -H $^{\alpha}$ crosspeaks which appear near the diagonal (and, in this case, were not picked) would likely need to be considered. This would require spending more time manually picking the peaks in this region.

6.4.1 PROCHECK & WHATIF

Structure quality checks performed with PROCHECK and WHATIF are given in Tables 6.5-6.7. These show that the structures are of good quality with acceptable values for all the quality tests which were performed. Thus, these analyses indicate that the BlgB structure does not contain unusual (and, therefore, potentially erroneous) elements.

Region	No. residues (%) ^a
Most favourable	63.3 (65.1)
Additionally allowed	28.7 (27.5)
Generously allowed	5.3 (4.7)
Disallowed	2.7 (2.7)

Table 6.5: Ramachandran plot statistics for BlgB calculated using PROCHECK. ^a Numbers in parenthesis are for the BlgA structure calculated by Uhrinova et al (Uhrinova et al., 2000).

Parameter	RMS Z-score
Bond lengths	1.10
Bond angles	0.98
Improper dihedral distributions	1.082
Sidechain planarity	0.97
Omega angles	0.92

Parameter	Z-Score
1 st generation packing	-0.745
2 nd generation packing	-2.88
χ^1/χ^2 rotamer normality	-2.10

Tables 6.6 and 6.7: RMS Z-scores and Z-scores for WHATIF structure quality checks.

6.5 Structure Analysis

6.5.1 Comparison with X-ray Structure

The overall agreement between the X-ray structure of BlgB (Oliviera et al., 2001) and the closest to mean NMR structure obtained from the ensemble given here is good, showing an average backbone rmsd of 1.2 Å between the two structures when overlaid on residues 3-155. All of the elements of secondary structure present in the X-ray structure are retained in the low pH solution structure. As with the low pH structure of BlgA, the E-F loop is in the ‘closed’ conformation, occluding the central cavity of the calyx.

Backbone rmsds were calculated for individual regions of the structures (whilst overlaid on the backbone atoms of residues 3-155). The β -strands show the strongest areas of agreement with an average rmsd of 0.9 Å, strand G having the lowest (0.72 Å) and the largest difference being seen in the backbone positions of strand I (1.7 Å). Of the loops and turns, the rmsds are somewhat larger, with an average of 1.3 Å though this may be expected due to the more flexible nature of these regions.

The largest disagreement is found in the orientation of the α -helix and the accompanying β -strand, I. These regions show, on average, a difference of 1.8 Å. Comparison of the backbone positions in the α -helix and strand I alone show a much better agreement of 1.1 Å. The difference is therefore due to the position the α -helix adopts in relation to the calyx. In the NMR structure, the C-terminal end of the α -helix is positioned somewhat closer to the calyx and appears to be angled more toward the N-terminus of the protein as illustrated in Figure 6.13. It can be seen that the α -helix clearly deviates in its position and direction between the X-ray (dimer) and NMR (monomer) structures. In the Blg dimer, strand I forms part of the dimer interface and, thus, this difference could be due to a slight conformational change on undergoing the dimer to monomer transition. Similar differences exist in the X-ray and solution structures of BlgA.

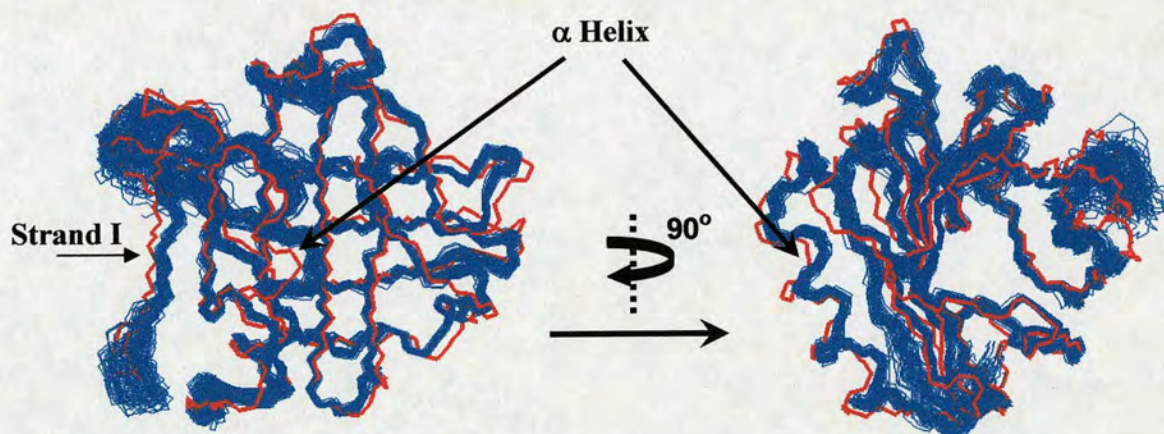


Figure 6.13: Overlay of the NMR-derived structure ensemble (blue) with the X-ray structure (red) of BlgB. Differences in the position of β -strand I and the α -helix are indicated.

6.5.2 Comparison of BlgA and BlgB

As shown in Table 6.5, the NMR-derived BlgA and BlgB structures show similar distribution of Ramachandran plots, although the structure of BlgB shows a slightly improved refinement in terms of the ensemble rmsds – backbone rmsds for the BlgA ensemble of Uhrinova were 0.84 Å (cf. 0.64 Å for BlgB).

The structures of BlgA and BlgB determined by X-ray show little difference (Qin et al., 1999, Oliviera et al., 2001). Of the two differences in the amino acid sequences of the proteins, the 118Val→Ala mutation occurs in the β -strand, H, and has been shown to have little or no effect upon the surface of the protein. It seems likely, therefore, that the differences observed in the physical properties of the two proteins is due to the 64Asp→Gly mutation which occurs in the loop joining the C and D strands. Unfortunately, the flexible nature of this region makes it difficult to observe any particular structural difference this may give rise to. On comparing the NMR-derived structures of variants A and B, the two structures show close agreement with one another (backbone rmsd of 1.3 Å for closest to mean structures) but, unfortunately, the potential area of difference is too poorly defined to allow any useful comparisons to be made.

Chapter 7

C4BP~1,2

7.1 Background

C4b-binding protein (C4BP) is a plasma-based regulator of the complement system, a major factor in innate immune response to foreign pathogens. C4BP regulates both the classical and alternative pathways of complement activation. In its most commonly occurring isoform, C4BP is a 570 kDa protein composed of complement control protein (CCP) modules, arranged in eight chains, linked via their C-termini at a central core region (Dahlbaeck et al., 1983). Of the eight chains, seven are identical α -chains, eight CCP modules in length and the eighth is a shorter β -chain of three CCP modules. These CCP modules are short consensus sequence repeats, ca. 60 aa in length, which form the basis of the majority of complement regulator proteins. Investigations into the C4b binding activity identified the first three N-terminal modules (CCP1-3) of the α -chains as those necessary for binding (Blom et al., 2001). The solution structure of a construct of modules one and two (C4BP~1,2) has recently been solved via NMR (Jenkins et al., 2005). The amino acid sequence of C4BP~1,2 is shown below:

0 M

1 NCGPPPTLSF AAPMDITLTE TRFKTGTTLK YTCLPGYVRS

41 HSTQTLTCNS DGEWVYNTFC IYKRCRHPGE LRNGQVEIKT

81 DLSFGSQIEF SCSEGFFLIG STTSRCEVQD RGVGWSHPLP

121 QCEILEHHHH HH

Naturally, it is necessary to further analyse the Protocol to determine its usefulness in a variety of differing situations. In order to do this, the structure of C4BP~1,2 was solved again. C4BP~1,2 differs from BlgB in a number of ways which make it a good candidate for evaluating the efficacy and applicability of the Protocol. Firstly, C4BP~1,2, as with all CCP modules, has many fewer elements of secondary structure, generally only exhibiting small regions of β -strands. Thus, recalculating the structure of C4BP~1,2 via the Protocol will give some assessment of its performance in solving the structures of structurally varied proteins. Secondly, the number of methyl containing residues (38/133) is also fewer for C4BP~1,2, (65/165 for BlgB) providing a measure of the protocol's ability to perform with reduced data from the methyl-selective experiments. Furthermore, from binding studies performed with M proteins (Jenkins et al., 2005), the residues which were identified as participating in the binding lie on different faces of the two modules, CCP1 and CCP2, leading to the suggestion that there is some re-orientation of the modules upon binding. Further investigation of the solution structure of C4BP~1,2 is therefore of interest.

7.2 Experimental

All experiments were acquired on a Bruker Avance 800 MHz spectrometer, equipped with triple axis gradient 5mm triple resonance coil, at 310K. ^1H and ^{15}N offsets were 4.63 ppm and 119.3 ppm respectively. All NOE mix times were 100 ms.

The acquisition of the complementary spectra was carried out some months later than the initial ^{13}C -edited and ^{15}N -edited NOESY spectra, during which time the sample had been stored at 4°C. It was therefore necessary to ensure that the sample quality had not deteriorated significantly during this time and that the protein fold remained unchanged to be confident of the validity of using both sets of data together. A comparison of two ^{15}N - ^1H -HSQCs, one acquired prior to the storage of the sample and the other acquired subsequently is shown in Figure 7.1.

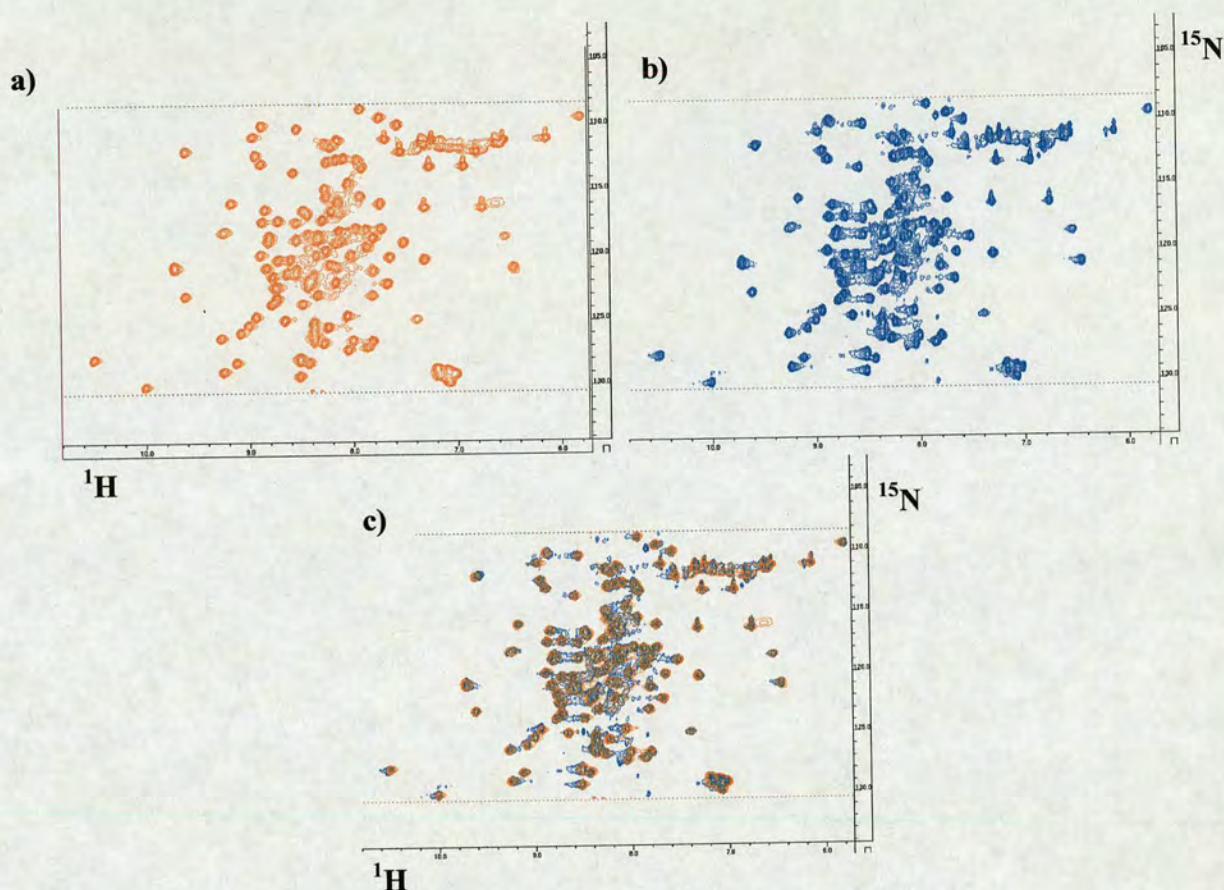


Figure 7.1: ^{15}N - ^1H -HSQC spectra of C4BP~1,2 acquired before, a) and after storage, b). An overlay of the two spectra is also shown, c). The spectra were plotted with the signal threshold just above the noise level.

From this comparison, it would appear that some degradation of the sample has occurred. The original spectrum is both cleaner than the more recently acquired spectrum and shows peaks which are more intense and well-defined. The increase in the amount of noise around the centre of the spectrum indicates an increase in the proportion of unfolded protein. Comparing the intensities of the NHD peaks (which, in 10% D_2O , account for ca. 20% of the sample) and the spurious peaks it was concluded that the sample was 90% pure. An overlay of both spectra gives further confirmation that the state of the sample is largely unaltered with peak positions showing good agreement. It was therefore decided to continue with the collection of further spectra.

7.2.1 HNH-, HCH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra

The HNH- and HCH-NOESY spectra used were those acquired previously by Huw Jenkins. Spectral folding was used in both ¹⁵N and ¹³C dimensions, with a ¹³C offset of 52.9 ppm. These spectra were processed in AZARA (Boucher, 1993) with maximum entropy processing employed in the indirect dimensions. The resulting spectral sizes were thus 2048 x 256 x 512 (¹⁵N) and 2048 x 128 x 512 (¹³C).

The HCH₃-NOESY was acquired with 1782 points in the directly detected dimension, 228 points in the indirect ¹H dimension (*t*₂) and 112 points in the indirect ¹³C dimension (*t*₁). Sweep widths (Hz) were 11160 x 3581 x 9603 (*t*₃ x *t*₂ x *t*₁). 8 scans were acquired per increment giving total acquisition time of 85 hours 45 minutes. Spectral folding of the ¹³C dimension was achieved with a ¹³C offset of 20.3 ppm. Following AZARA processing with zerofilling of the *t*₃ data and maximum entropy processing of the indirect dimensions, the total size of the spectrum was 2048x256x512 (F₃xF₂xF₁).

7.2.2 Complementary spectra

Prior to the acquisition of the methyl-selective experiments, a 2D constant-time, methyl-selective ¹³C-¹H-HSQC was acquired to obtain suitable offset and sweepwidth parameters for appropriate folding of the methyl region.

The CNH-NOESY spectrum was acquired with 2048 points in the directly detected ¹H dimension (*t*₃) and with 144 and 80 points in the indirect ¹³C (*t*₁) and ¹⁵N(*t*₂) dimensions respectively. Sweep widths (Hz) were 11160 x 1800 x 15094 (*t*₃ x *t*₂ x *t*₁). 16 scans were acquired for each increment giving a total acquisition time of 88 hours. The ¹³C offset was set to 44.8 ppm with no folding of the ¹³C dimension being used. The processing of this spectrum was carried out using AZARA using maximum entropy in the indirect dimensions to bring the total size of the spectrum to 2048x256x512 (F₁xF₂xF₃).

For the CCH₃-NOESY spectrum, acquisition was performed with 1782 points in the directly detected dimension, 96 points in the indirect methyl-¹³C dimension (*t*₂) and 144 points in the indirect ¹³C-aliphatic dimension (*t*₃). Sweep widths (Hz) were 11160 x 3581 x 15094 (*t*₃ x *t*₂ x *t*₁). 16 scans were acquired per increment giving a total acquisition time of 90 hours 30 minutes. Spectral folding of the ¹³CH₃ dimension was employed with a ¹³C offset of 20.3 ppm. For the first ¹³C HSQC the ¹³C offset was set at 41.5 ppm. Again, AZARA processing was carried on the data with zerofilling of the *t*₃ data and maximum entropy processing employed in the indirect dimensions. The total spectrum size was 2048x256x512 (F₃xF₂xF₁).

7.3 Assignment of NOESY spectra

The spectra were imported into an Analysis project along with the C4BP~1,2 chemical shift assignments obtained from the BMRB. As before, the peaks in each spectrum were picked using Analysis' parabolic peak fitting procedure and the dimensions of the bonded nuclei were assigned. These peaks were then used as input for the refined, semi-automated assignment macro as detailed previously. During this process, the chemical shifts of four sidechain resonances were reassigned. The values for 22N^ε, 22H^ε, 105N^ε and 105H^ε were deemed to be incorrect after examination of the assignment possibilities for their ¹⁵N-edited NOESY peaks showed little to no intra-residue or sequential assignments. Examination of the assignment possibilities returned by the protocol gave strong indication that these resonances should be swapped – the 22N^ε,H^ε strip containing numerous assignments for atoms of residues 104, 105 and 106 and vice versa.

In a few cases (16IleH^N and 89GluH^N; 31TyrH^N and 106CysH^N; 42SerH^N and 101SerH^N) due to the close proximity of both their ¹⁵N^H and ¹H^N chemical shifts, the HNH-NOESY strips belonging to these atoms were left unassigned in all three dimensions.

Of the 2497 peaks picked in the HNH-NOESY spectrum, 2111 were assigned, of which 1308 were unambiguous assignments and 803 were semi-ambiguous. For the HCH₃-NOESY, a total of 1428 peaks were selected, 498 of which were assigned unambiguously and 535 semi-ambiguously. The Analysis program was used to convert these assignments into distance restraints which were exported as restraint tables for use as input in the structure calculations performed using CNS. This process was completed within four days.

7.4 Structure Calculation

Following the Protocol, only the unambiguous restraints from the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra were used as input in the first calculation, along with the four disulphide bridges defined by homology, giving a total of 1806 NOE restraints.

The restraint violations resulting from the initial calculations were analysed and the appropriate peaks were re-examined and, where appropriate, reassigned. Duplicate restraints were also removed from the dataset. This resulted in 1386 unique, unambiguous restraints which were then used to calculate 100 structures, the results of which are given in Figure 7.2. The overall fold of each module agrees with those of the original calculation and of CCP modules in general although, clearly, the resolution requires improvement with quite poor backbone rmsd values for both modules. The intermodular orientation is, naturally, very poor due to the small number of intermodular NOEs present at this stage.

The resolution of module 1 is notably poorer than that of module 2 due to the fact that this module does not converge on a single conformation. These conformations are energetically indistinguishable, however, and it must be concluded that further NOE restraint information is required to determine which is the correct fold. With insufficient information contained within the unambiguous restraints to provide a convergent

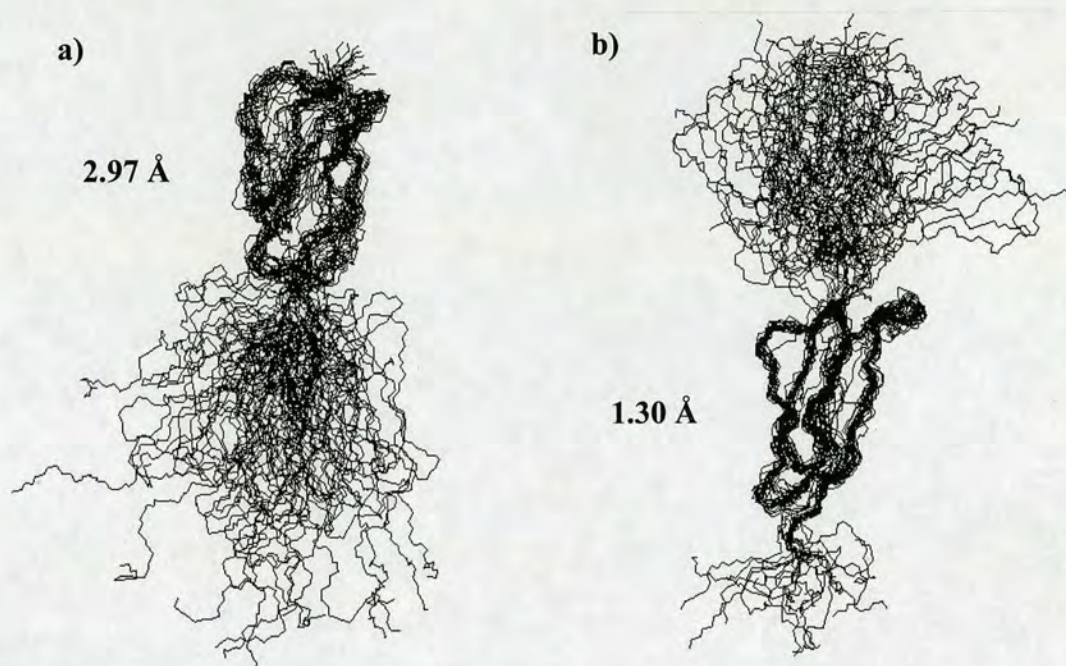


Figure 7.2: Lowest energy (15/100) structures resulting from calculations using unambiguous restraints from both HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY. a) Structures overlaid on module 1 (residues 2-60) and b) overlaid on module 2 (residues 65-122). The numbers indicate backbone rmsds.

structure, the semi-ambiguous restraints were included in the next round of calculations without first filtering them, as was the case with BlgB.

Following this round of calculations, as with all previous rounds, the restraints reported as violations were examined and either reassigned or made ambiguous. Inclusion of the semi-ambiguous restraints gave structures with much improved convergence as shown in Figure 7.3. The inclusion of the semi-ambiguous restraints further improves the rmsd of both modules and all of the lowest energy structures now converge on a single (correct) fold for both modules.

The definition of the intermodular region remains somewhat poor but, again, shows a significant improvement over the previous structure calculation rounds. With a convergent ensemble of structures of sufficient quality, the ARIA protocol could now be

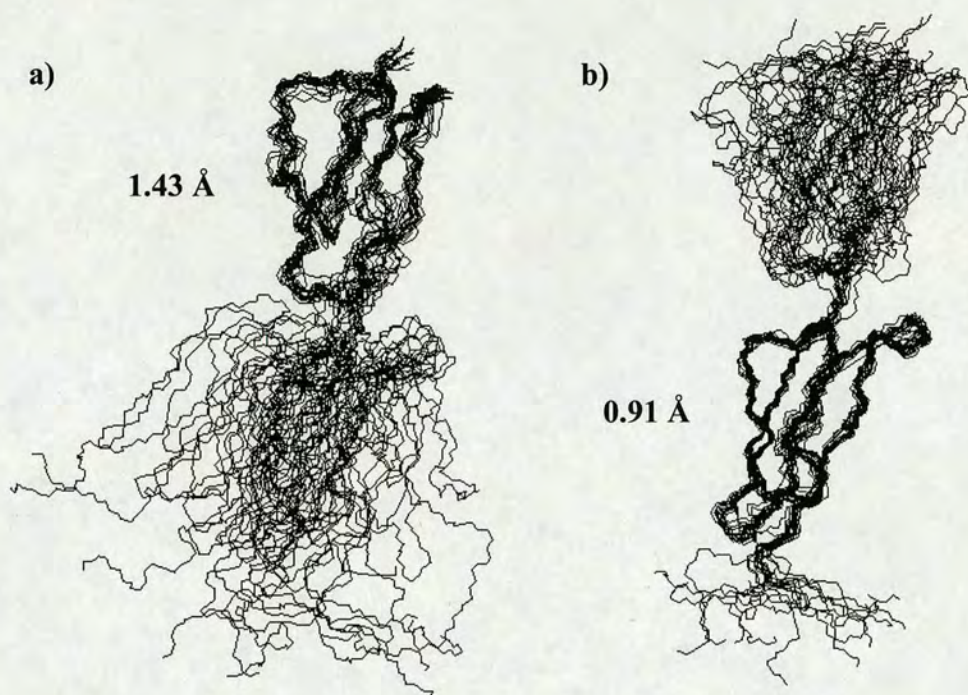


Figure 7.3: Lowest energy (18/100) structures obtained using unambiguous and semi-ambiguous HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints. a) Structures overlaid on module 2 (residues 65-122) b) structures overlaid on module 1 (residues 2-60). The numbers indicate backbone rmsds.

employed to filter the final set of restraints to be added – those of the peaks with completely ambiguous assignments.

The inclusion of the completely ambiguous restraint information results in a much improved structure for both modules. Subsequent structure calculations were performed following this round to further refine the ambiguous restraint information. In total, 3 further rounds of calculations were performed to give an ensemble of structures shown in Figure 7.4. The structure calculation statistics of the ensemble are given in Tables 7.1 and 7.2 and the energy profile in Figure 7.5.

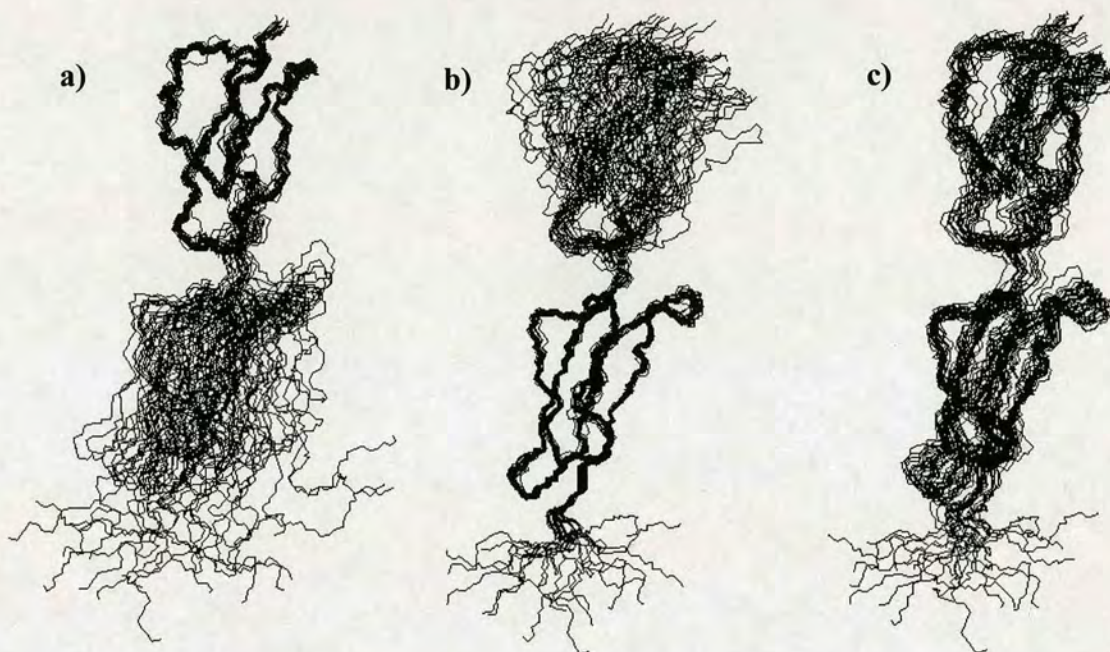


Figure 7.4: Lowest energy structure ensembles (23/100) calculated using all HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraint data overlaid on, a), module 1, b), module 2 and, c), on both modules.

NOE type	No. restraints ^a
Intra-residue	578
Sequential	677
Short-range (2-4 Å)	406
Long-range (>4 Å)	886
Ambiguous	771

Atoms	Rmsds (Å)		
	Module 1	Module 2	Both modules
Backbone	0.89	0.60	1.90
Heavy	1.39	1.13	2.24

Violations	
NOE (>0.3 Å)	3

Tables 7.1, 7.2 & 7.3: NOE and structure statistics for structure ensemble (23/100) calculated using all HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraint data. ^a These are the numbers of both unambiguous and semi-ambiguous unique restraints

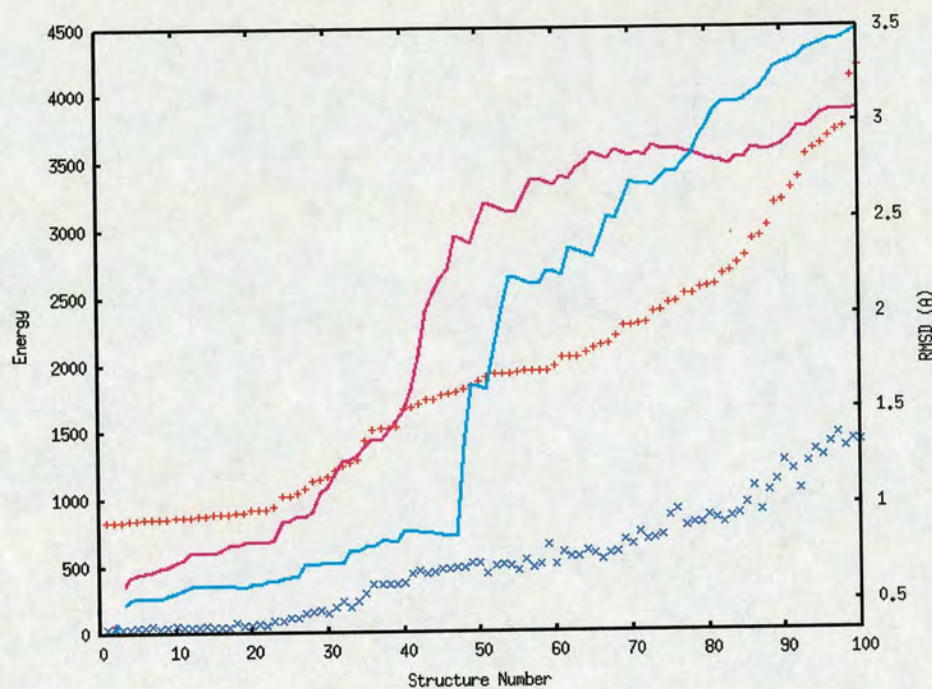


Figure 7.5: Plot of total potential energy (red) and NOE energy (blue) for the 100 structures calculated with all HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints. Backbone rmsds of module 1 (magenta) and module 2 (cyan) are also plotted.

The converged structures show good agreement when overlaid on individual modules and, though somewhat poorer, the overlay of both modules is also acceptable. Further filtering and structure calculation steps did not improve upon this ensemble and, therefore, this was judged to be the conclusion of the structure determination with regard to the information available from the HNH-NOESY and HCH₃-NOESY spectra.

Comparison of these structures with those obtained by Jenkins shows a favourable agreement. In the calculations performed by Jenkins, a total of 4436 NOE distance restraints were used, 3541 of which were unambiguous and 895 unambiguous. The calculation procedures differed somewhat as the data used by Jenkins et al were principally derived from the HCH-NOESY spectrum in the first instance, whereas these data are not yet included in the calculations presented here. Also, Jenkins used the

assignment program ANSIG to assign the spectra resulting in only unambiguous or ambiguous restraint classes (no semi-ambiguous). The relevant structure statistics for this comparison are given in Table 7.4. It should be noted that these statistics are not for the final, published ensemble but refer to the ensemble obtained prior to the inclusion of residual dipolar coupling (RDC) restraints i.e. the structures obtained using only NOE-derived experimental restraint data.

Atoms	Rmsd's (Å)		
	Module 1	Module 2	Both modules
Backbone	1.091	0.764	2.716
Heavy	1.593	1.199	3.015

Table 7.4: Rmsds for the structure ensemble (26 out of 100) of Jenkins generated using NOE data (prior to RDC refinement)

The structures generated using the total HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY (unambiguous, semi- and completely ambiguous) restraints compare well with these statistics - the NOE statistics for these structures and the relevant structural data are given previously in Table 7.2. The total amount of information acquired is greater for the structures of Jenkins but a comparison of the structures themselves show that the Protocol, while giving slightly fewer converged structures overall, produces an ensemble with much better rmsds. As was noted with BlgB, and will be seen later (Tables 7.8-7.10) this difference can be attributed to the Protocol providing a greater number of restraints of high structural significance.

It is still possible to improve the quality of the Protocol-derived structures, however, by including the information which remains unused in the HCH-NOESY. As with BlgB, only the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints have been used to arrive at this point and no quantitative information from the HCH-NOESY has yet been obtained. In particular, the orientation of the sidechains would be expected to benefit from this further

refinement. Following the procedure used for BlgB, four regions of the HCH-NOESY spectrum were selected for automated peak picking, resulting in 2234 peaks which were converted into distance restraints using the ‘Shift Match Distance Constraints’ function of analysis. These completely ambiguous restraints were then exported and filtered using the structure ensemble obtained previously prior to performing a further calculation. In total, 1359 unique restraints were used.

Progressive filtering of these restraints in three rounds of calculations gave the final NOE-derived structure ensemble, the statistics for which are given in Table 7.5.

Atoms	Rmsd's (Å)		
	Module 1	Module 2	Both modules
Backbone	0.85	0.54	1.49
Heavy	1.21	1.02	1.90

Table 7.5: Structure statistics for the structure ensemble (33/100) calculated using HNH-, HCH₃- and HCH-NOESY restraints

The additional carbon restraints result in an increased number of converged structures (33) and improved rmsd's as shown in Figure 7.6. It is worth noting that the difference in the rmsds of backbone atoms in the structures with and without the additional carbon restraints are only marginal. A much more substantial reduction is seen in the rmsd's of the sidechain atoms. This is as might be expected since the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY data will largely define only backbone positions and the positions of chain termini (for those sidechains which have amine or methyl groups). The carbon data will contain restraints which define the position of the entire sidechain thus leading to sidechain positions which are much more precisely defined.

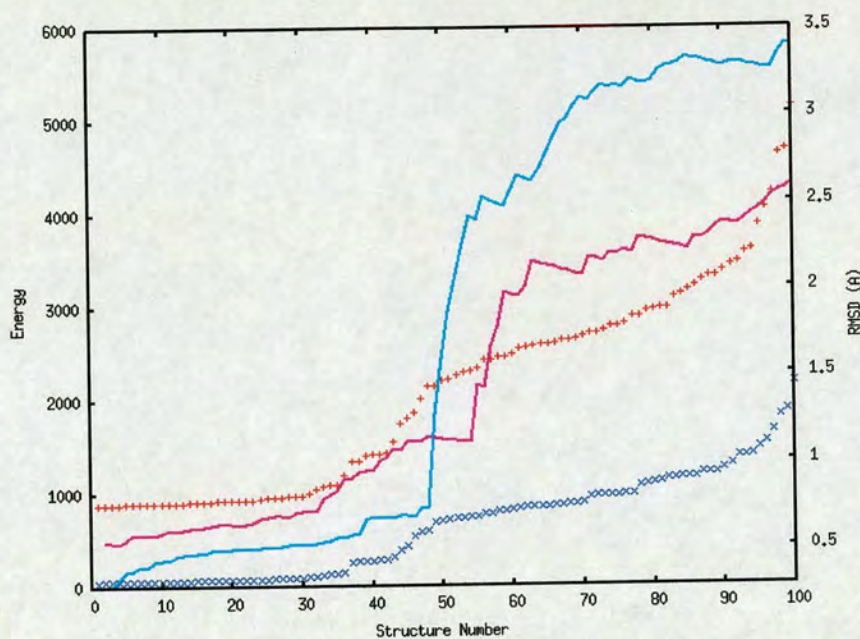


Figure 7.6: Plot of total potential energy (red) and NOE energy (blue) versus structure number for ensemble of structures calculated using HNH-, HCH₃- and HCH-NOESY spectra restraints. Backbone rmsds for module 1 (magenta) and module 2 (cyan) are also plotted.

Overlays of the closest to mean structures obtained from this ensemble and the final (RDC refined) ensemble of Jenkins et al, given in Figure 7.7 show good agreement with backbone rmsds of 1.2 Å and 1.1 Å for modules 1 and 2 respectively. Overlaying both modules gives a larger difference of 1.95 Å. This is caused by the differing intermodular orientations of the two structures. This difference can be attributed to the use of RDCs in the refinement of the structures calculated by Jenkins et al. As RDCs are inherently long-range restraints, they are particularly useful in improving the definition of the intermodular orientation. Inclusion of the RDC restraints used by Jenkins – 62 ¹D_{NH}, 65 ¹D_{NC'}, 41 ¹D_{CαC'}, 24 ¹D_{CαHα} - in a final structure refinement step of the calculations presented here gives a much better agreement as shown in Figure 7.7 and Table 7.6 with a backbone rmsd of 1.1 Å between the closest to mean structures (overlaid on both modules) and also increases the number of structures which converge on the lowest energy conformation.

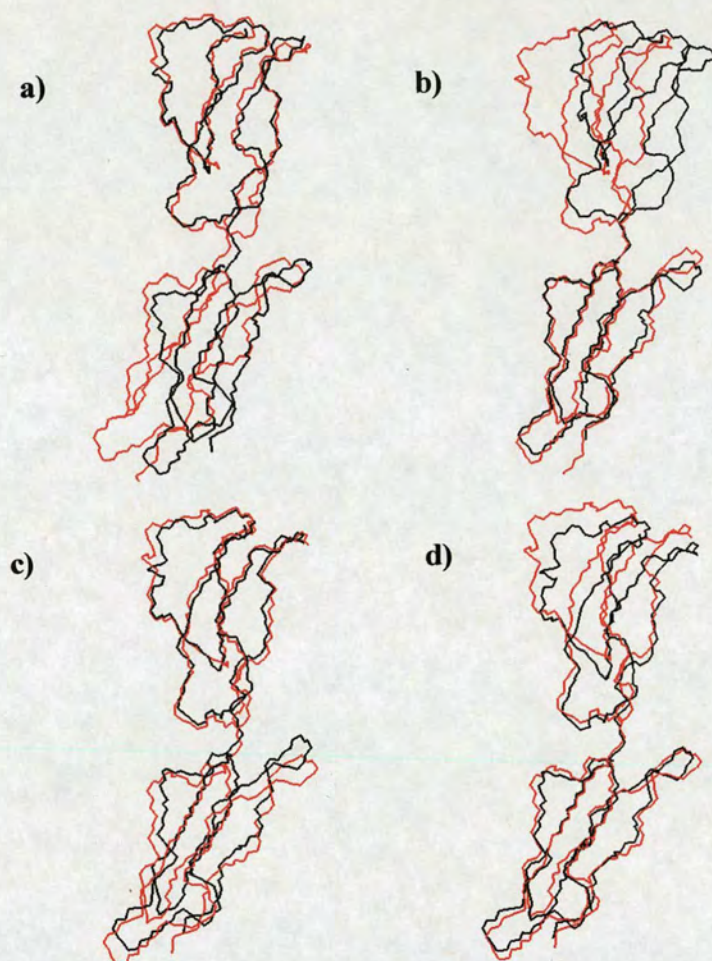


Figure 7.7: Comparison of closest to mean (RDC refined) structure obtained by Jenkins et al (red) and that calculated here (black). a) & b) show overlays on module 1 and 2 respectively for the structure obtained without RDCs and c) & d) show the same for the structure obtained with RDCs.

Structure	Angle ($^{\circ}$) ^a		
	Tilt	Twist	Skew
NOE only	24.50	-1.05	158.44
NOE + RDC	34.76 (38.42)	4.31 (3.66)	252.32 (249.85)

Table 7.6: Intermodular orientations for the NOE only and the NOE + RDC structures. ^a Numbers in parenthesis indicate the values for the structure of Jenkins et al.

Clearly, the RDC refinement gives structures with intermodular orientations which agree much more closely with those of the published structure than is found for those structures which were obtained without RDCs. A comparison of the structural statistics for this final structure ensemble with the ensemble calculated by Jenkins et al is given in Table 7.7.

Atoms	Rmsds (Å) ^a		
	Module 1	Module 2	Both modules
Backbone	0.85 (0.90)	0.54 (0.60)	0.982(1.04)
Heavy	1.19 (1.49)	1.00 (1.11)	1.40 (1.51)

Table 7.7: Rmsd's for final structure ensemble (50 out of 100) calculated using HNH-, HCH₃- and HCH-NOESY restraints and RDC restraint data. ^a Numbers in parentheses are the values for the structure ensemble (40 out of 100) calculated by Jenkins et al.

7.5 Analysis of the Performance of the Protocol

The results of the previous section indicate that the Protocol performs somewhat more effectively than Method 1 with a good quality 'NOE-only' structure of C4BP~1,2 being obtained with fewer total restraints. However, as with BlgB, a more quantitative approach is necessary to obtain a precise measure of the improvement gained via the protocol. To this end, assignment of the HNH-NOESY and HCH₃-NOESY spectra was performed again using Method 1 but, in this case, a side-by-side comparison of the two methods was not performed. Instead the results of the structure calculation were used to perform a retrospective analysis.

The first and simplest measure is a comparison of the assignments obtained via Methods 1 and 2, indicating the degree to which the total assignment ambiguity has been reduced. Table 7.8 gives the results of comparing these two sets of data.

Spectrum	Method	Unambiguous	Semi-ambiguous	Ambiguous
HNH-NOESY	1	1188	946	363
	2	1308	803	386
HCH ₃ -NOESY	1	379	654	299
	2	498	531	303

Table 7.8: Comparison of number of unambiguous, ambiguous and semi-ambiguous NOEs obtained via Methods 1 and 2. These are the totals prior to removal of erroneous and duplicate restraints.

Method 2 shows a greater number of unambiguous assignments, as would be expected. As was observed in the case of BlgB, a greater number of ambiguous restraints is obtained corresponding to peaks whose assignment possibilities did not match with any of the peaks of the complementary spectrum (instances of case B).

A peak by peak comparison of the two sets of assignments was performed to give a more accurate assessment of the assignment difference; determining the number of cases of ambiguity elimination and ambiguity reduction. Prior to performing this analysis, erroneous and duplicate restraints were removed from the datasets. These figures are summarized in Table 7.9.

Spectrum	Ambiguity Elimination	Ambiguity Reduction
HNH-NOESY	170	140
HCH ₃ -NOESY	184	173

Table 7.9: Number of cases of ambiguity elimination and reduction in the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra

In total, for the HNH-NOESY spectrum, 317 peaks were ‘less ambiguous’ when assigned via the protocol than when assigned via the standard method and, for the HCH₃-edited NOESY spectrum, 366 peaks were ‘less ambiguous’. When compared to the total number of peaks from each spectrum, these figures are relatively small but this is somewhat misleading since the ambiguity reduction events occur only within a subset of the total peaks i.e. those peaks arising from NOE’s to aliphatic protons. If the ambiguity elimination and reduction events are expressed as a fraction of this subset of the total data, however, they can be seen to represent a substantial portion of these data – ca. 20% of the HNH-NOESY and ca. 30 % of the HCH₃-NOESY data.

The composition of these events is given in Table 7.10. As shown here, of the assignments which led to satisfied restraints, the greater portion of these are the more structurally significant short- or long-range NOEs.

Spectrum	Event	Sequential	Short	Long
HNH-NOESY	elimination	25	56	89
	reduction	26	47	67
HCH ₃ -NNOESY	elimination	7	67	110
	reduction	26	80	67

Table 7.10: Breakdown of NOE types of ambiguity reduction events

A more precise measure of the importance of these restraints is obtained via QUEEN analysis of the Method 2 restraints. Figure 7.8 gives the relevant output information arising from the QUEEN analysis of the correct unambiguous restraints used to calculate the structures in Figure 7.4. Those restraints which have been identified as ambiguity elimination events are highlighted.

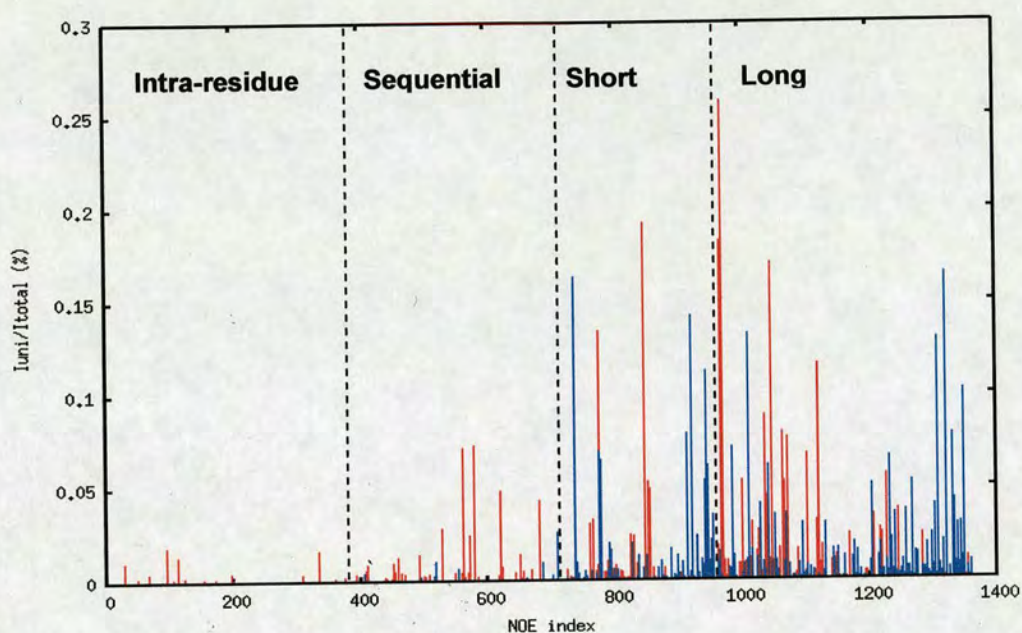


Figure 7.8: Plot of $I_{\text{uni}}/I_{\text{total}}$ values for unambiguous HNH-NOESY and HCH_3 -NOESY restraints. The blue lines indicate those restraints which are cases of ambiguity elimination.

As these analyses show, similar observations can be made as were seen for BlgB i.e. not only does the Protocol reduce the total assignment ambiguity for a spectrum, the restraints which these produce exist largely in the short- and long-range categories of NOE information and are found to be among the most unique pieces of information present in the dataset.

Once identified, the effect of the less ambiguous restraints upon the quality of structures obtained using these restraints can be assessed by replacing the restraints of interest in the restraint tables produced via Method 2 with their counterparts arising from assignment via Method 1. Obviously this will result in an overall increase in the total ambiguity present in the dataset. Figure 7.9 shows the results of calculations performed with these two differing sets of restraints.

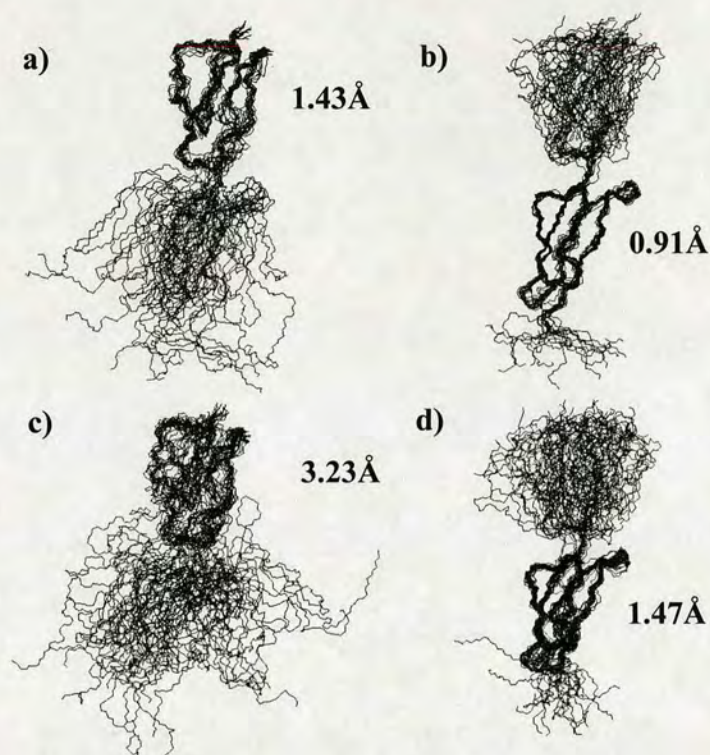


Figure 7.9: Lowest energy structures (20/100) overlaid on module 1, a), and module 2, b), obtained using Method 2 restraints. c) and d) show the same overlays but for structures calculated with the ambiguity reduction and elimination events replaced by Method 1 assignments. Numbers indicate the backbone rmsds for the overlaid residues

The increase in ambiguity clearly has a noticeable effect upon the overall structure quality resulting in much poorer rmsds for both modules. Importantly, for module 1, the structures cease to converge on a single conformation giving rmsds which are correspondingly much worse. It should be noted that this ‘composite’ restraint set is obviously artificial and, therefore, the results given above do not necessarily represent the output which would be obtained at any point in calculating these structures using spectra assigned via Method 1. However, it still provides a rough assessment of the impact of the greater information content of restraints obtained via Method 2, in the absence of a side-by-side comparison. Thus, the improvements seen for assignment of BlgB – greater number of unambiguous restraints and overall reduced ambiguity of

ambiguous restraints – which delivered improved structures more quickly are also seen for C4BP~1,2.

Furthermore, as was also seen in the case of BlgB, assigning via the protocol provides an additional safeguard against incorrect assignments. Comparing the initial restraint tables provided by each method with the final structure shows that the reduction in the number of incorrect assignments is quite significant. Of the 1567 unambiguous restraints obtained via Method 1, 161 (ca. 10%) were found to be incorrect whereas, for Method 2, 93 of the 1806 (ca. 5%) unambiguous assignments were incorrect. Thus Method 2 seems to perform consistently with similar increases in the amount of correct, structurally significant, unambiguous information and decreases in the number of incorrect assignments as were seen for BlgB.

In total, the time required to obtain a structure for C4BP~1,2 from the beginning of NOESY assignment was of the order of ca. 4 weeks. In contrast, the time spent by Jenkins in obtaining the same structure was ca. 24 weeks.

Chapter 8

Conclusions

Four complementary 3D NOESY experiments (CNH-, NNH-, CCH- and CCH₃-NOESY) employing heteronuclear labeling in both indirect dimensions have been designed and implemented for use as assignment aids in assigning 'standard' NOESY spectra (HNH-, HCH- and HCH₃-NOESY). Of the four, two spectra (CNH- and CCH₃-NOESY) were deemed to be most suitable for use as assignment aids on the basis of signal density and spectral resolution. A protocol for efficient and effective incorporation of these spectra into the NOESY spectra assignment procedure was designed, implemented and tested in the Analysis software package.

Assignment of the 3D HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra of BlgB (18 kDa) was performed with and without the use of the complementary experiments to test the performance of the Protocol. It was found that assignments made via the Protocol were less ambiguous overall and yielded a restraint set with significantly improved information content. This, coupled with increased accuracy of assignments, delivered structures of better quality more quickly than was the case when the complementary spectra were not used. Inclusion of a subset of restraints present in the HCH-NOESY spectrum was achieved in a simple and efficient manner via automated peak selection and the use of the structure ensemble provided by the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra to filter the ambiguous assignments. This procedure eliminated the need for assignment of the 3D HCH-NOESY data – the most time-consuming step in NMR-based structure determination of proteins.

As a preliminary step for this work, near-complete resonance assignment was achieved for the protein β -lactoglobulin B and the low pH solution structure of this protein was solved. The structure ensemble obtained showed excellent convergence with low backbone rmsds and low total energies. The structural validity was assessed via quality checks performed with PROCHECK and WHATIF which showed no unusual results. The low pH solution structure of BlgB closely resembles that of BlgA; potential differences of interest due to changes in two amino acids were undiscernable due to flexibility in the relevant area.

In order to further test the Protocol, the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY spectra of the double CCP module construct C4BP~1,2 (15 kDa) were assigned. Comparing the resulting restraint sets with those obtained without the use of the complementary spectra showed an overall decrease in ambiguity for the Protocol dataset along with similar increases in the structural significance and information content of restraints as were observed in the case of BlgB. The solution structure of C4BP~1,2 was solved using Protocol-derived HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY restraints and completely ambiguous set of HCH-NOESY restraints. Following refinement using RDCs, the resulting structures agreed well with the structure solved previously (Jenkins et al, 2005) and showed somewhat improved convergence with slightly lower backbone rmsds and an increased number of converged structures.

The use of the Protocol outlined here requires that three additional 3D experiments be acquired compared to a 'standard' assignment method thus presenting a potential disadvantage in the amount of time which must be spent acquiring spectra. The significance of this problem is far from prohibitive, however, as these time requirements can easily be absorbed into other time-intensive procedures such as resonance assignment. Furthermore, as has been shown, the potential time gains are much more substantial, reducing the time required for structure determination of medium size (~20 kDa) double labeled proteins from months to weeks.

Overall, the Protocol developed here has been shown to be effective at providing good quality structures in relatively short time. The Protocol demonstrated robustness and flexibility, performing consistently with both the protein samples used in the investigation; providing similar decreases in total assignment ambiguity coupled with an increase in the numbers of structurally significant restraints. For both BlgB and C4BP~1,2, the structures obtained using the HNH- and HCH₃-NOESY data were of good quality with low (<1.0 Å) backbone rmsds. Further improvements, in particular to the position of sidechains, were obtained on including HCH-NOESY data. By employing this Protocol, the total time spent assigning spectra and calculating and refining structures can be greatly reduced without compromising the quality of the NMR structures of proteins.

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Appendix A

BlgB Chemical Shift Assignments

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
-2	VAL	HA	4.145	2	ILE	CG2	17.749	7	MET	CB	33.220
-2	VAL	HB	2.262	2	ILE	CD1	12.912	7	MET	CG	32.487
-2	VAL	HGA	1.064	2	ILE	N	121.683	7	MET	N	120.375
-2	VAL	HGB	0.965								
-2	VAL	CA	59.798	3	VAL	HA	3.990	8	LYS	HA	4.212
-2	VAL	CB	31.933	3	VAL	HB	1.951	8	LYS	HBA	1.798
-2	VAL	CGA	20.719	3	VAL	HGA	0.825	8	LYS	HBB	1.798
-2	VAL	CGB	18.838	3	VAL	HGB	0.825	8	LYS	HGA	1.418
				3	VAL	HN	8.012	8	LYS	HGB	1.522
-1	PRO	HA	4.451	3	VAL	CA	62.764	8	LYS	HDA	1.686
-1	PRO	HBA	1.814	3	VAL	CB	32.287	8	LYS	HDB	1.686
-1	PRO	HBB	2.277	3	VAL	CGA	21.198	8	LYS	HEA	3.006
-1	PRO	HGA	1.975h	3	VAL	CGB	21.198	8	LYS	HEB	3.006
-1	PRO	HGB	1.991	3	VAL	N	123.871	8	LYS	HN	8.539
-1	PRO	HDA	3.590					8	LYS	CA	57.127
-1	PRO	HDB	3.734	4	THR	HA	4.293	8	LYS	CB	32.753
-1	PRO	CA	63.313	4	THR	HB	4.106	8	LYS	CG	25.083
-1	PRO	CB	32.148	4	THR	HGA	1.041	8	LYS	CD	29.202
-1	PRO	CG	27.451	4	THR	HN	7.921	8	LYS	CE	42.267
-1	PRO	CD	50.905	4	THR	CA	61.298	8	LYS	N	127.225
				4	THR	CB	69.893				
0	MET	HA	4.369	4	THR	CG2	21.502	9	GLY	HAA	3.817
0	MET	HBA	1.969	4	THR	N	115.866	9	GLY	HAB	3.919
0	MET	HBB	1.969					9	GLY	HN	8.474
0	MET	HGA	2.483	5	GLN	HA	4.416	9	GLY	CA	45.855
0	MET	HGB	2.532	5	GLN	HBA	2.062	9	GLY	N	109.254
0	MET	HN	8.318	5	GLN	HBB	2.062				
0	MET	CA	55.626	5	GLN	HGA	2.313	10	LEU	HA	4.115
0	MET	CB	33.577	5	GLN	HGB	2.313	10	LEU	HBA	1.748
0	MET	CG	31.910	5	GLN	HN	8.166	10	LEU	HBB	1.443
0	MET	N	121.183	5	GLN	HE1A	6.733	10	LEU	HG	1.437
				5	GLN	HE1B	7.375	10	LEU	HDA	1.006
1	LEU	HA	4.335	5	GLN	CA	55.942	10	LEU	HDB	0.953
1	LEU	HBA	1.525	5	GLN	CB	29.253	10	LEU	HN	7.479
1	LEU	HBB	1.525	5	GLN	CG	33.823	10	LEU	CA	56.227
1	LEU	HG	1.490	5	GLN	N	123.190	10	LEU	CB	42.881
1	LEU	HDA	0.830	5	GLN	NE2	111.373	10	LEU	CG	27.253
1	LEU	HDB	0.773					10	LEU	CDA	26.911
1	LEU	HN	8.104	6	THR	HA	4.482	10	LEU	CDB	23.878
1	LEU	CA	55.287	6	THR	HB	4.257	10	LEU	N	120.031
1	LEU	CB	42.578	6	THR	HGA	0.981				
1	LEU	CG	27.079	6	THR	HN	7.639	11	ASP	HA	4.989
1	LEU	CDA	24.869	6	THR	CA	60.545	11	ASP	HBA	2.678
1	LEU	CDB	24.136	6	THR	CB	70.576	11	ASP	HBB	2.756
1	LEU	N	123.599	6	THR	CG2	23.005	11	ASP	HN	8.555
				6	THR	N	111.167	11	ASP	CA	51.187
2	ILE	HA	4.053					11	ASP	CB	38.299
2	ILE	HB	1.811	7	MET	HA	4.216	11	ASP	N	126.586
2	ILE	HGA	0.756	7	MET	HBA	1.848				
2	ILE	HG1A	1.075	7	MET	HBB	1.639	12	ILE	HA	3.943
2	ILE	HG1B	1.352	7	MET	HGA	2.369	12	ILE	HB	2.036
2	ILE	HD1	0.738	7	MET	HGB	2.539	12	ILE	HGA	1.032
2	ILE	HN	8.034	7	MET	HN	7.671	12	ILE	HG1A	1.335
2	ILE	CA	61.292	7	MET	CA	56.636	12	ILE	HG1B	1.410
2	ILE	CB	38.444					12	ILE	HD1	0.870
2	ILE	CG1	27.359					12	ILE	HN	8.807

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
12	ILE	CB	38.812	17	GLY	HN	9.125	23	ALA	HB	1.173
12	ILE	CG1	27.738	17	GLY	CA	44.378	23	ALA	HN	7.642
12	ILE	CG2	18.663	17	GLY	N	110.066	23	ALA	CA	50.859
12	ILE	CD1	14.899					23	ALA	CB	23.118
12	ILE	N	122.815	18	THR	HA	4.337	23	ALA	N	115.030
				18	THR	HB	3.845				
13	GLN	HA	3.871	18	THR	HGA	1.030	24	MET	HA	5.627
13	GLN	HBA	2.067	18	THR	HN	8.329	24	MET	HBA	2.365
13	GLN	HBB	1.963	18	THR	CA	64.247	24	MET	HBB	1.808
13	GLN	HGA	2.442	18	THR	CB	69.906	24	MET	HGA	2.412
13	GLN	HGB	2.442	18	THR	CG2	22.010	24	MET	HGB	2.523
13	GLN	HN	7.905	18	THR	N	118.314	24	MET	HN	8.999
13	GLN	HE1A	6.792					24	MET	CA	54.452
13	GLN	HE1B	7.568	19	TRP	HBA	2.162	24	MET	CB	37.724
13	GLN	CA	58.324	19	TRP	HN	7.405	24	MET	CG	32.195
13	GLN	CB	27.399	19	TRP	N	123.972	24	MET	N	115.210
13	GLN	CG	33.662								
13	GLN	N	117.157	20	TYR	HA	5.126	25	ALA	HA	5.230
13	GLN	NE2	112.351	20	TYR	HBA	2.743	25	ALA	HB	1.254
				20	TYR	HBB	2.743	25	ALA	HN	9.189
14	LYS	HA	4.141	20	TYR	HD1	7.018	25	ALA	CA	51.485
14	LYS	HBA	1.395	20	TYR	HDA	7.018	25	ALA	CB	24.646
14	LYS	HBB	1.141	20	TYR	HE1	6.692	25	ALA	N	123.203
14	LYS	HGA	1.075	20	TYR	HEA	6.692				
14	LYS	HGB	1.075	20	TYR	HN	9.033	26	ALA	HA	5.281
14	LYS	HDA	1.090	20	TYR	CA	56.687	26	ALA	HB	1.410
14	LYS	HDB	1.090	20	TYR	CB	42.158	26	ALA	HN	8.362
14	LYS	HEA	2.605	20	TYR	CD1	133.619	26	ALA	CA	51.752
14	LYS	HEB	2.605	20	TYR	CD2	133.619	26	ALA	CB	23.549
14	LYS	HN	7.155	20	TYR	CE1	117.936	26	ALA	N	119.834
14	LYS	CA	57.439	20	TYR	CE2	117.936				
14	LYS	CB	33.398	20	TYR	N	111.980	27	SER	HA	4.791
14	LYS	CG	25.974					27	SER	HBA	4.201
14	LYS	CD	29.347	21	SER	HA	4.801	27	SER	HBB	3.859
14	LYS	CE	41.695	21	SER	HBA	3.843	27	SER	HN	8.548
14	LYS	N	113.641	21	SER	HBB	3.973	27	SER	CA	60.151
				21	SER	HN	9.820	27	SER	CB	64.275
15	VAL	HA	4.752	21	SER	CA	60.199	27	SER	N	115.907
15	VAL	HB	2.516	21	SER	CB	63.111				
15	VAL	HGA	1.023	21	SER	N	119.467	28	ASP	HA	5.069
15	VAL	HGB	0.940					28	ASP	HBA	2.837
15	VAL	HN	7.336	22	LEU	HA	4.687	28	ASP	HBB	2.837
15	VAL	CA	61.032	22	LEU	HBA	1.820	28	ASP	HN	7.537
15	VAL	CB	31.269	22	LEU	HBB	1.660	28	ASP	CA	51.653
15	VAL	CGA	22.427	22	LEU	HG	1.729	28	ASP	CB	39.962
15	VAL	CGB	19.466	22	LEU	HDA	1.160	28	ASP	N	119.391
15	VAL	N	110.225	22	LEU	HDB	1.082				
				22	LEU	HN	9.148	29	ILE	HA	3.603
16	ALA	HA	4.200	22	LEU	CA	56.811	29	ILE	HB	1.823
16	ALA	HB	1.480	22	LEU	CB	44.359	29	ILE	HGA	0.968
16	ALA	HN	6.754	22	LEU	CG	27.787	29	ILE	HG1A	1.111
16	ALA	CA	52.675	22	LEU	CDA	24.234	29	ILE	HG1B	1.114
16	ALA	CB	20.248	22	LEU	CDB	24.234	29	ILE	HD1	0.930
16	ALA	N	120.862	22	LEU	N	131.338	29	ILE	HN	8.807
								29	ILE	CA	65.792
17	GLY	HAA	3.872	23	ALA	HA	5.105	29	ILE	CB	38.605
17	GLY	HAB	4.551					29	ILE	CG1	28.870
				35	GLN	HBA	1.733				

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
29	ILE	CG2	17.928	35	GLN	HBB	1.801	40	ARG	HGA	1.221
29	ILE	CD1	13.837	35	GLN	HGA	1.957	40	ARG	HGB	1.686
29	ILE	N	124.735	35	GLN	HGB	2.045	40	ARG	HDA	3.197
				35	GLN	HN	8.976	40	ARG	HDB	3.197
30	SER	HA	4.171	35	GLN	HE1A	6.439	40	ARG	HN	7.499
30	SER	HBA	3.863	35	GLN	HE1B	6.532	40	ARG	CA	54.653
30	SER	HBB	3.912	35	GLN	CA	59.074	40	ARG	CB	28.495
30	SER	HG	1.558	35	GLN	CB	28.262	40	ARG	CG	27.699
30	SER	HN	7.926	35	GLN	CG	32.775	40	ARG	CD	43.479
30	SER	CA	60.310	35	GLN	N	121.129	40	ARG	N	123.411
30	SER	CB	62.988	35	GLN	NE2	109.621				
30	SER	N	114.197					41	VAL	HA	4.606
				36	SER	HA	4.799	41	VAL	HB	1.801
31	LEU	HA	4.108	36	SER	HBA	3.898	41	VAL	HGA	0.650
31	LEU	HBA	1.723	36	SER	HBB	4.200	41	VAL	HGB	0.529
31	LEU	HBB	1.332	36	SER	HN	7.616	41	VAL	HN	6.848
31	LEU	HG	1.625	36	SER	CA	57.143	41	VAL	CA	57.421
31	LEU	HDA	0.948	36	SER	CB	63.915	41	VAL	CB	34.347
31	LEU	HDB	0.865	36	SER	N	107.549	41	VAL	CGA	22.029
31	LEU	HN	7.578					41	VAL	CGB	17.063
31	LEU	CA	56.845	37	ALA	HA	4.413	41	VAL	N	116.281
31	LEU	CB	41.698	37	ALA	HB	1.365				
31	LEU	CG	25.562	37	ALA	HN	7.449	42	TYR	HA	4.778
31	LEU	CDA	21.747	37	ALA	CA	51.642	42	TYR	HBA	2.719
31	LEU	CDB	21.747	37	ALA	CB	18.088	42	TYR	HBB	3.060
31	LEU	N	117.019	37	ALA	N	126.172	42	TYR	HD1	7.063
								42	TYR	HDA	7.063
32	LEU	HA	4.605	38	PRO	HA	4.183	42	TYR	HE1	6.770
32	LEU	HBA	1.613	38	PRO	HBA	1.882	42	TYR	HEA	6.770
32	LEU	HBB	1.223	38	PRO	HBB	2.358	42	TYR	HN	8.548
32	LEU	HG	1.352	38	PRO	HGA	2.002	42	TYR	CA	55.341
32	LEU	HDA	0.697	38	PRO	HGB	2.128	42	TYR	CB	38.761
32	LEU	HDB	0.697	38	PRO	HDA	3.781	42	TYR	CD1	133.228
32	LEU	HN	7.003	38	PRO	HDB	3.895	42	TYR	CD2	133.228
32	LEU	CA	54.184	38	PRO	CA	65.914	42	TYR	CE1	118.247
32	LEU	CB	48.520	38	PRO	CB	32.475	42	TYR	CE2	118.247
32	LEU	CG	26.317	38	PRO	CG	27.982	42	TYR	N	120.946
32	LEU	CDA	24.466	38	PRO	CD	50.305				
32	LEU	CDB	24.466					43	VAL	HA	3.715
32	LEU	N	111.353	39	LEU	HA	4.612	43	VAL	HB	1.869
				39	LEU	HBA	1.455	43	VAL	HGA	0.729
33	ASP	HA	4.218	39	LEU	HBB	1.455	43	VAL	HGB	0.620
33	ASP	HBA	2.763	39	LEU	HG	1.693	43	VAL	HN	8.564
33	ASP	HBB	3.077	39	LEU	HDA	0.914	43	VAL	CA	64.431
33	ASP	HN	7.700	39	LEU	HDB	0.914	43	VAL	CB	31.786
33	ASP	CA	56.108	39	LEU	HN	7.782	43	VAL	CGA	21.849
33	ASP	CB	38.350	39	LEU	CA	52.078	43	VAL	CGB	21.722
33	ASP	N	118.536	39	LEU	CB	40.498	43	VAL	N	125.260
				39	LEU	CG	27.427				
34	ALA	HA	4.516	39	LEU	CDA	26.667	44	GLU	HA	5.049
34	ALA	HB	1.399	39	LEU	CDB	23.222	44	GLU	HBA	2.028
34	ALA	HN	7.537	39	LEU	N	111.956	44	GLU	HBB	1.846
34	ALA	CA	51.501					44	GLU	HGA	2.268
34	ALA	CB	21.306	40	ARG	HA	3.911	44	GLU	HGB	2.354
34	ALA	N	120.513	40	ARG	HBA	1.328	44	GLU	HN	8.903
				40	ARG	HBB	2.199	44	GLU	CA	55.349
35	GLN	HA	4.035	49	THR	HA	5.016	44	GLU	CB	31.984

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
44	GLU	CG	33.360	49	THR	HB	4.761	54	LEU	CDB	23.031
44	GLU	N	121.921	49	THR	HGA	1.119	54	LEU	N	119.305
				49	THR	HN	8.537				
45	GLU	HA	5.203	49	THR	CA	58.906	55	GLU	HA	4.815
45	GLU	HBA	2.181	49	THR	CB	68.778	55	GLU	HBA	1.931
45	GLU	HBB	2.265	49	THR	CG2	20.906	55	GLU	HBB	1.931
45	GLU	HGA	1.876	49	THR	N	114.207	55	GLU	HGA	2.158
45	GLU	HGB	2.023					55	GLU	HGB	2.158
45	GLU	HN	7.571	50	PRO	HA	4.327	55	GLU	HN	8.607
45	GLU	CA	54.775	50	PRO	HBA	1.848	55	GLU	CA	55.034
45	GLU	CB	33.361	50	PRO	HBB	2.425	55	GLU	CB	29.219
45	GLU	CG	33.138	50	PRO	HGA	2.001	55	GLU	CG	33.366
45	GLU	N	116.231	50	PRO	HGB	2.132	55	GLU	N	125.926
				50	PRO	HDA	3.824				
46	LEU	HA	5.105	50	PRO	HDB	3.951	56	ILE	HA	4.309
46	LEU	HBA	0.978	50	PRO	CA	65.443	56	ILE	HB	1.592
46	LEU	HBB	2.045	50	PRO	CB	31.869	56	ILE	HGA	0.508
46	LEU	HG	1.326	50	PRO	CG	27.833	56	ILE	HG1A	1.292
46	LEU	HDA	0.154	50	PRO	CD	51.140	56	ILE	HG1B	1.292
46	LEU	HDB	0.485					56	ILE	HD1	0.258
46	LEU	HN	8.605	51	GLU	HA	4.366	56	ILE	HN	9.203
46	LEU	CA	53.573	51	GLU	HBA	1.904	56	ILE	CA	60.772
46	LEU	CB	44.051	51	GLU	HBB	2.223	56	ILE	CB	39.768
46	LEU	CG	27.324	51	GLU	HGA	2.404	56	ILE	CG1	26.267
46	LEU	CDA	24.423	51	GLU	HGB	2.535	56	ILE	CG2	17.059
46	LEU	CDB	25.064	51	GLU	HN	7.421	56	ILE	CD1	12.800
46	LEU	N	122.031	51	GLU	CA	56.214	56	ILE	N	126.413
				51	GLU	CB	28.056				
47	LYS	HA	5.054	51	GLU	CG	33.985	57	LEU	HA	5.083
47	LYS	HBA	1.581	51	GLU	N	112.155	57	LEU	HBA	1.545
47	LYS	HBB	1.801					57	LEU	HBB	1.757
47	LYS	HGA	1.278	52	GLY	HAA	3.562	57	LEU	HG	1.525
47	LYS	HGB	1.278	52	GLY	HAB	4.242	57	LEU	HDA	0.774
47	LYS	HDA	1.553	52	GLY	HN	8.225	57	LEU	HDB	0.774
47	LYS	HDB	1.553	52	GLY	CA	45.623	57	LEU	HN	8.435
47	LYS	HEA	2.868	52	GLY	N	106.918	57	LEU	CA	54.731
47	LYS	HEB	2.868					57	LEU	CB	42.587
47	LYS	HN	9.095	53	ASP	HA	5.079	57	LEU	CG	28.579
47	LYS	CA	52.975	53	ASP	HBA	2.687	57	LEU	CDA	24.892
47	LYS	CB	35.144	53	ASP	HBB	3.065	57	LEU	CDB	24.152
47	LYS	CG	24.454	53	ASP	HN	7.115	57	LEU	N	128.617
47	LYS	CD	29.218	53	ASP	CA	52.964				
47	LYS	CE	41.989	53	ASP	CB	39.449	58	LEU	HA	5.364
47	LYS	N	122.356	53	ASP	N	115.015	58	LEU	HBA	1.465
								58	LEU	HBB	1.342
48	PRO	HA	5.124	54	LEU	HA	4.612	58	LEU	HG	1.584
48	PRO	HBA	1.958	54	LEU	HBA	0.603	58	LEU	HDA	0.589
48	PRO	HBB	2.004	54	LEU	HBB	1.076	58	LEU	HDB	0.541
48	PRO	HGA	1.889	54	LEU	HG	0.878	58	LEU	HN	9.015
48	PRO	HGB	2.153	54	LEU	HDA	-0.006	58	LEU	CA	53.265
48	PRO	HDA	3.954	54	LEU	HDB	0.271	58	LEU	CB	46.167
48	PRO	HDB	3.331	54	LEU	HN	8.742	58	LEU	CG	25.626
48	PRO	CA	62.169	54	LEU	CA	54.020	58	LEU	CDA	25.630
48	PRO	CB	32.482	54	LEU	CB	46.124	58	LEU	CDB	26.175
48	PRO	CG	27.782	54	LEU	CG	26.006	58	LEU	N	123.291
48	PRO	CD	50.884	54	LEU	CDA	23.877				
				63	ASN	ND2	112.904	59	GLN	HA	5.427

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
59	GLN	HBA	2.121	64	GLY	HAA	3.410	69	LYS	HN	9.105
59	GLN	HBB	2.237	64	GLY	HAB	3.936	69	LYS	CA	54.412
59	GLN	HGA	2.338	64	GLY	HN	7.013	69	LYS	CB	36.044
59	GLN	HGB	2.260	64	GLY	CA	45.860	69	LYS	CG	24.465
59	GLN	HN	9.150	64	GLY	N	101.636	69	LYS	CD	28.630
59	GLN	HE1A	7.137	65	GLU	HA	4.093	69	LYS	CE	41.874
59	GLN	HE1B	7.202	65	GLU	HBA	1.850	69	LYS	N	123.755
59	GLN	CA	53.551	65	GLU	HBB	1.693	70	LYS	HA	5.152
59	GLN	CB	31.934	65	GLU	HGA	2.126	70	LYS	HBA	1.635
59	GLN	CG	33.960	65	GLU	HGB	2.225	70	LYS	HBB	1.635
59	GLN	N	117.709	65	GLU	HN	6.798	70	LYS	HGA	1.226
59	GLN	NE2	111.793	65	GLU	CA	53.232	70	LYS	HGB	1.090
60	LYS	HA	4.630	65	GLU	CB	31.104	70	LYS	HDA	1.544
60	LYS	HBA	1.554	65	GLU	CG	31.875	70	LYS	HDB	1.544
60	LYS	HBB	1.554	65	GLU	N	116.489	70	LYS	HEA	2.810
60	LYS	HGA	1.356	66	CYS	HA	4.858	70	LYS	HEB	2.810
60	LYS	HGB	1.356	66	CYS	HBA	2.861	70	LYS	HN	8.475
60	LYS	HDA	1.499	66	CYS	HBB	3.090	70	LYS	CA	55.077
60	LYS	HDB	1.499	66	CYS	HN	8.624	70	LYS	CB	34.748
60	LYS	HEA	2.941	66	CYS	CA	54.716	70	LYS	CG	24.775
60	LYS	HEB	2.941	66	CYS	CB	38.970	70	LYS	CD	29.513
60	LYS	HN	8.892	66	CYS	N	120.776	70	LYS	CE	41.880
60	LYS	CA	55.346	67	ALA	HA	4.533	70	LYS	N	123.587
60	LYS	CB	37.266	67	ALA	HB	1.333	71	ILE	HA	4.397
60	LYS	CG	24.586	67	ALA	HN	8.906	71	ILE	HB	1.604
60	LYS	CD	29.229	67	ALA	CA	51.503	71	ILE	HGA	0.658
60	LYS	CE	42.419	67	ALA	CB	21.384	71	ILE	HG1A	0.913
60	LYS	N	121.331	67	ALA	N	133.502	71	ILE	HG1B	1.256
61	TRP	HA	5.057	68	GLN	HA	5.106	71	ILE	HD1	0.543
61	TRP	HBA	2.969	68	GLN	HBA	2.047	71	ILE	HN	8.907
61	TRP	HBB	3.314	68	GLN	HBB	1.936	71	ILE	CA	59.615
61	TRP	HD1	7.328	68	GLN	HGA	2.410	71	ILE	CB	41.653
61	TRP	HN	9.679	68	GLN	HGB	2.237	71	ILE	CG1	27.072
61	TRP	N	129.765	68	GLN	HN	8.310	71	ILE	CG2	17.247
62	GLU	HA	4.435	68	GLN	HE1A	7.103	71	ILE	CD1	13.665
62	GLU	HBA	1.902	68	GLN	HE1B	7.678	71	ILE	N	123.982
62	GLU	HBB	1.710	68	GLN	CA	54.729	72	ILE	HA	4.372
62	GLU	HGA	2.203	68	GLN	CB	31.001	72	ILE	HB	1.844
62	GLU	HGB	2.203	68	GLN	CG	34.259	72	ILE	HGA	0.715
62	GLU	HN	8.792	68	GLN	N	118.502	72	ILE	HG1A	1.138
62	GLU	CA	54.768	68	GLN	NE2	113.358	72	ILE	HG1B	1.383
62	GLU	CB	30.731	69	LYS	HA	4.640	72	ILE	HD1	0.727
62	GLU	CG	32.764	69	LYS	HBA	1.635	72	ILE	HN	8.435
62	GLU	N	126.961	69	LYS	HBB	1.446	72	ILE	CA	59.836
63	ASN	HA	4.155	69	LYS	HGA	1.216	72	ILE	CB	37.525
63	ASN	HBA	2.569	69	LYS	HGB	1.216	72	ILE	CG1	27.570
63	ASN	HBB	2.889	69	LYS	HDA	1.554	72	ILE	CG2	17.356
63	ASN	HN	8.950	69	LYS	HDB	1.554	72	ILE	CD1	11.639
63	ASN	HD1A	6.783	69	LYS	HEA	2.835	72	ILE	N	125.401
63	ASN	HD1B	7.464	69	LYS	HEB	2.739	73	ALA	HA	5.012
63	ASN	CA	54.082	78	ILE	HA	4.502	73	ALA	HB	0.950
63	ASN	CB	37.467					73	ALA	HN	9.205
63	ASN	N	122.260					73	ALA	CA	49.711

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
73	ALA	CB	19.436	78	ILE	HB	1.625	83	LYS	HA	4.968
73	ALA	N	133.255	78	ILE	HGA	0.874	83	LYS	HBA	1.743
				78	ILE	HG1A	1.086	83	LYS	HBB	1.769
74	GLU	HA	4.555	78	ILE	HG1B	1.381	83	LYS	HGA	1.529
74	GLU	HBA	2.145	78	ILE	HD1	0.764	83	LYS	HGB	1.330
74	GLU	HBB	1.986	78	ILE	HN	7.926	83	LYS	HDA	1.691
74	GLU	HGA	2.466	78	ILE	CA	57.429	83	LYS	HDB	1.711
74	GLU	HGB	2.466	78	ILE	CB	39.035	83	LYS	HEA	2.963
74	GLU	HN	9.377	78	ILE	CG1	27.149	83	LYS	HEB	2.963
74	GLU	CA	55.035	78	ILE	CG2	17.562	83	LYS	HN	9.421
74	GLU	CB	30.194	78	ILE	CD1	12.173	83	LYS	CA	55.638
74	GLU	CG	33.388	78	ILE	N	122.136	83	LYS	CB	34.849
74	GLU	N	124.487					83	LYS	CG	24.872
				79	PRO	HA	4.203	83	LYS	CD	29.528
75	LYS	HA	4.067	79	PRO	HBA	1.937	83	LYS	CE	41.987
75	LYS	HBA	1.876	79	PRO	HBB	2.419	83	LYS	N	123.086
75	LYS	HBB	1.960	79	PRO	HGA	2.034				
75	LYS	HGA	1.489	79	PRO	HGB	2.149	84	ILE	HA	4.834
75	LYS	HGB	1.241	79	PRO	HDA	3.722	84	ILE	HB	1.696
75	LYS	HDA	1.666	79	PRO	HDB	4.010	84	ILE	HGA	0.733
75	LYS	HDB	1.666	79	PRO	CA	64.543	84	ILE	HG1A	1.175
75	LYS	HEA	2.977	79	PRO	CB	32.477	84	ILE	HG1B	1.175
75	LYS	HEB	2.977	79	PRO	CG	27.730	84	ILE	HD1	0.608
75	LYS	HN	8.395	79	PRO	CD	51.464	84	ILE	HN	7.650
75	LYS	CA	57.146					84	ILE	CA	59.489
75	LYS	CB	32.573	80	ALA	HA	4.047	84	ILE	CB	43.778
75	LYS	CG	23.849	80	ALA	HB	1.763	84	ILE	CG1	24.467
75	LYS	CD	29.820	80	ALA	HN	7.788	84	ILE	CG2	19.132
75	LYS	CE	42.394	80	ALA	CA	52.712	84	ILE	CD1	14.279
75	LYS	N	123.032	80	ALA	CB	19.893	84	ILE	N	115.772
				80	ALA	N	114.991				
76	THR	HA	4.778					85	ASP	HA	4.994
76	THR	HB	4.429	81	VAL	HA	4.913	85	ASP	HBA	2.879
76	THR	HG1	4.648	81	VAL	HB	1.709	85	ASP	HBB	2.703
76	THR	HGA	1.186	81	VAL	HGA	0.841	85	ASP	HN	8.738
76	THR	HN	8.368	81	VAL	HGB	0.805	85	ASP	CA	52.390
76	THR	CA	60.131	81	VAL	HN	7.256	85	ASP	CB	38.158
76	THR	CB	72.287	81	VAL	CA	61.877	85	ASP	N	119.081
76	THR	CG2	20.824	81	VAL	CB	33.486				
76	THR	N	112.498	81	VAL	CGA	22.131	86	ALA	HA	4.609
				81	VAL	CGB	21.234	86	ALA	HB	1.277
77	LYS	HA	4.119	81	VAL	N	117.391	86	ALA	HN	7.155
77	LYS	HBA	1.797					86	ALA	CA	51.787
77	LYS	HBB	1.903	82	PHE	HA	5.182	86	ALA	CB	22.760
77	LYS	HGA	1.460	82	PHE	HBA	2.443	86	ALA	N	121.793
77	LYS	HGB	1.460	82	PHE	HBB	2.718				
77	LYS	HDA	1.662	82	PHE	HD1	6.794	87	LEU	HA	3.839
77	LYS	HDB	1.662	82	PHE	HDA	6.794	87	LEU	HBA	1.876
77	LYS	HEA	2.973	82	PHE	HE1	7.134	87	LEU	HBB	1.573
77	LYS	HEB	2.973	82	PHE	HEA	7.134	87	LEU	HG	1.273
77	LYS	HN	8.215	82	PHE	HN	9.498	87	LEU	HDA	0.773
77	LYS	CA	57.673	82	PHE	CA	55.885	87	LEU	HDB	0.687
77	LYS	CB	32.479	82	PHE	CB	43.793	87	LEU	HN	8.970
77	LYS	CG	25.091	82	PHE	CD1	131.350	87	LEU	CA	55.674
77	LYS	CD	29.232	82	PHE	CD2	131.350	87	LEU	CB	38.414
77	LYS	CE	42.279	82	PHE	N	126.260	87	LEU	CG	26.463
77	LYS	N	116.433	92	VAL	HGB	0.629	87	LEU	CDA	22.499

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
87	LEU	CDB	20.008	92	VAL	HN	8.995	97	THR	HG1	2.109
87	LEU	N	114.362	92	VAL	CA	61.351	97	THR	HGA	0.213
				92	VAL	CB	35.152	97	THR	HN	7.749
88	ASN	HA	4.196	92	VAL	CGA	22.677	97	THR	CA	60.402
88	ASN	HBA	2.807	92	VAL	CGB	20.398	97	THR	CB	69.470
88	ASN	HBB	3.145	92	VAL	N	121.169	97	THR	CG2	17.490
88	ASN	HN	8.635					97	THR	N	118.859
88	ASN	HD1A	6.736	93	LEU	HA	5.342				
88	ASN	HD1B	7.448	93	LEU	HBA	1.387	98	ASP	HA	4.629
88	ASN	CA	54.935	93	LEU	HBB	1.387	98	ASP	HBA	2.518
88	ASN	CB	37.827	93	LEU	HG	1.549	98	ASP	HBB	3.235
88	ASN	N	111.561	93	LEU	HDA	0.752	98	ASP	HN	6.712
88	ASN	ND2	112.203	93	LEU	HDB	0.704	98	ASP	CA	52.388
				93	LEU	HN	9.355	98	ASP	CB	41.380
89	GLU	HA	4.932	93	LEU	CA	53.818	98	ASP	N	122.840
89	GLU	HBA	1.987	93	LEU	CB	44.372				
89	GLU	HBB	1.987	93	LEU	CG	27.958	99	TYR	HA	3.735
89	GLU	HGA	2.669	93	LEU	CDA	26.418	99	TYR	HBA	3.048
89	GLU	HGB	2.308	93	LEU	CDB	26.030	99	TYR	HBB	3.580
89	GLU	HN	8.192	93	LEU	N	125.831	99	TYR	HD1	6.804
89	GLU	CA	53.866					99	TYR	HDA	6.804
89	GLU	CB	32.477	94	VAL	HA	4.272	99	TYR	HE1	6.815
89	GLU	CG	30.113	94	VAL	HB	2.240	99	TYR	HEA	6.815
89	GLU	N	117.030	94	VAL	HGA	0.800	99	TYR	HN	8.974
				94	VAL	HGB	0.754	99	TYR	CA	65.229
90	ASN	HA	5.720	94	VAL	HN	9.279	99	TYR	CB	36.604
90	ASN	HBA	3.384	94	VAL	CA	63.402	99	TYR	CD1	132.941
90	ASN	HBB	2.766	94	VAL	CB	31.529	99	TYR	CD2	132.941
90	ASN	HN	9.014	94	VAL	CGA	20.839	99	TYR	CE1	118.380
90	ASN	HD1A	6.839	94	VAL	CGB	20.167	99	TYR	CE2	118.380
90	ASN	HD1B	7.424	94	VAL	N	123.993	99	TYR	N	117.658
90	ASN	CA	52.822								
90	ASN	CB	39.953	95	LEU	HA	4.244	100	LYS	HA	4.274
90	ASN	N	115.480	95	LEU	HBA	1.740	100	LYS	HBA	1.916
90	ASN	ND2	109.318	95	LEU	HBB	1.403	100	LYS	HBB	1.767
				95	LEU	HG	1.660	100	LYS	HGA	1.496
91	LYS	HA	5.543	95	LEU	HDA	0.787	100	LYS	HGB	1.496
91	LYS	HBA	1.638	95	LEU	HDB	0.676	100	LYS	HDA	1.733
91	LYS	HBB	1.638	95	LEU	HN	8.379	100	LYS	HDB	1.733
91	LYS	HGA	1.437	95	LEU	CA	57.452	100	LYS	HEA	3.026
91	LYS	HGB	1.437	95	LEU	CB	42.609	100	LYS	HEB	3.026
91	LYS	HDA	1.470	95	LEU	CG	28.671	100	LYS	HN	8.944
91	LYS	HDB	1.615	95	LEU	CDA	25.355	100	LYS	CA	57.098
91	LYS	HEA	2.832	95	LEU	CDB	23.169	100	LYS	CB	34.566
91	LYS	HEB	2.832	95	LEU	N	127.862	100	LYS	CG	25.116
91	LYS	HN	8.504					100	LYS	CD	29.182
91	LYS	HZ	8.492	96	ASP	HA	4.919	100	LYS	CE	42.276
91	LYS	CA	55.638	96	ASP	HBA	2.316	100	LYS	N	119.332
91	LYS	CB	37.850	96	ASP	HBB	3.133				
91	LYS	CG	25.175	96	ASP	HN	7.133	101	LYS	HA	4.749
91	LYS	CD	29.416	96	ASP	CA	54.189	101	LYS	HBA	2.004
91	LYS	CE	42.397	96	ASP	CB	43.195	101	LYS	HBB	2.739
91	LYS	N	121.509	96	ASP	N	109.684	101	LYS	HGA	1.391
								101	LYS	HGB	1.479
92	VAL	HA	4.806	97	THR	HA	4.115	101	LYS	HDA	1.798
92	VAL	HB	1.748	97	THR	HB	4.125	101	LYS	HDB	1.798
92	VAL	HGA	0.754	105	PHE	HEA	6.994	101	LYS	HEA	3.027

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
101	LYS	HEB	3.027	105	PHE	HN	8.829	110	SER	CA	61.267
101	LYS	HN	9.000	105	PHE	CA	55.962	110	SER	CB	63.115
101	LYS	CA	59.200	105	PHE	CB	42.376	110	SER	N	122.098
101	LYS	CB	35.776	105	PHE	CD1	131.354				
101	LYS	CG	25.356	105	PHE	CD2	131.354	111	ALA	HA	4.312
101	LYS	CD	29.059	105	PHE	CE1	130.503	111	ALA	HB	1.365
101	LYS	CE	42.292	105	PHE	CE2	130.503	111	ALA	HN	8.233
101	LYS	N	118.343	105	PHE	N	120.949	111	ALA	CA	53.632
								111	ALA	CB	19.221
102	TYR	HA	6.520	106	CYS	HA	5.513	111	ALA	N	123.189
102	TYR	HBA	2.756	106	CYS	HBA	2.600				
102	TYR	HBB	3.075	106	CYS	HBB	2.990	112	GLU	HA	4.793
102	TYR	HD1	6.414	106	CYS	HG	7.076	112	GLU	HBA	1.946
102	TYR	HDA	6.414	106	CYS	HN	9.595	112	GLU	HBB	2.168
102	TYR	HE1	6.570	106	CYS	CA	55.970	112	GLU	HGA	2.449
102	TYR	HEA	6.570	106	CYS	CB	49.396	112	GLU	HGB	2.272
102	TYR	HN	8.788	106	CYS	N	116.881	112	GLU	HN	7.682
102	TYR	CA	56.762					112	GLU	CA	53.261
102	TYR	CB	44.077	107	MET	HA	5.676	112	GLU	CB	28.031
102	TYR	CE1	117.224	107	MET	HBA	2.033	112	GLU	CG	32.184
102	TYR	CE2	117.224	107	MET	HBB	2.033	112	GLU	N	112.900
102	TYR	N	115.957	107	MET	HGA	2.650				
				107	MET	HGB	2.733	113	PRO	HA	4.111
103	LEU	HA	4.357	107	MET	HN	9.777	113	PRO	HBA	1.875
103	LEU	HBA	0.973	107	MET	CA	54.320	113	PRO	HBB	2.141
103	LEU	HBB	0.325	107	MET	CB	37.231	113	PRO	HGA	1.974
103	LEU	HG	1.238	107	MET	CG	32.501	113	PRO	HGB	2.077
103	LEU	HDA	0.365	107	MET	N	120.775	113	PRO	HDA	3.514
103	LEU	HDB	0.239					113	PRO	HDB	3.675
103	LEU	HN	9.112	108	GLU	HA	4.724	113	PRO	CA	66.340
103	LEU	CA	56.855	108	GLU	HBA	2.066	113	PRO	CB	32.158
103	LEU	CB	44.102	108	GLU	HBB	2.066	113	PRO	CG	27.748
103	LEU	CG	27.714	108	GLU	HGA	1.724	113	PRO	CD	50.024
103	LEU	CDA	25.999	108	GLU	HGB	1.920				
103	LEU	CDB	26.272	108	GLU	HN	8.377	114	GLU	HA	4.002
103	LEU	N	124.936	108	GLU	CA	55.044	114	GLU	HBA	2.111
				108	GLU	CB	32.471	114	GLU	HBB	2.111
104	LEU	HA	5.708	108	GLU	CG	32.689	114	GLU	HGA	2.492
104	LEU	HBA	2.182	108	GLU	N	113.821	114	GLU	HGB	2.492
104	LEU	HBB	1.466					114	GLU	HN	8.300
104	LEU	HG	1.999	109	ASN	HA	5.119	114	GLU	CA	59.223
104	LEU	HDA	1.093	109	ASN	HBA	2.914	114	GLU	CB	27.759
104	LEU	HDB	0.978	109	ASN	HBB	3.052	114	GLU	CG	33.980
104	LEU	HN	9.288	109	ASN	HN	9.275	114	GLU	N	113.805
104	LEU	CA	52.693	109	ASN	HD1A	6.612				
104	LEU	CB	44.066	109	ASN	HD1B	7.357	115	GLN	HA	4.380
104	LEU	CG	27.402	109	ASN	CA	51.965	115	GLN	HBA	2.217
104	LEU	CDA	24.440	109	ASN	CB	39.034	115	GLN	HBB	1.955
104	LEU	CDB	26.072	109	ASN	N	120.199	115	GLN	HGA	2.379
104	LEU	N	124.836	109	ASN	ND2	111.178	115	GLN	HGB	2.467
								115	GLN	HN	7.671
105	PHE	HA	5.772	110	SER	HA	3.882	115	GLN	HE1B	6.843
105	PHE	HBA	2.726	110	SER	HBA	3.693	115	GLN	CA	57.101
105	PHE	HBB	3.169	110	SER	HBB	4.081	115	GLN	CB	29.004
105	PHE	HD1	6.847	110	SER	HG	4.919	115	GLN	CG	34.257
105	PHE	HDA	6.847	110	SER	HN	9.775	115	GLN	N	115.830
105	PHE	HE1	6.994	122	LEU	HA	5.898	115	GLN	NE2	112.890

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
116	SER	HA	4.580	122	LEU	HBA	1.859	126	PRO	CG	26.902
116	SER	HBA	3.732	122	LEU	HBB	1.646	126	PRO	CD	49.711
116	SER	HBB	4.700	122	LEU	HG	1.686				
116	SER	HN	7.509	122	LEU	HDA	1.006	127	GLU	HA	4.311
116	SER	CA	58.533	122	LEU	HDB	0.337	127	GLU	HBA	1.741
116	SER	CB	65.342	122	LEU	HN	9.668	127	GLU	HBB	1.990
116	SER	N	109.550	122	LEU	CA	52.674	127	GLU	HGA	2.264
				122	LEU	CB	44.755	127	GLU	HGB	2.264
117	LEU	HA	4.885	122	LEU	CG	26.648	127	GLU	HN	8.224
117	LEU	HBA	1.767	122	LEU	CDA	24.607	127	GLU	CA	54.789
117	LEU	HBB	1.767	122	LEU	CDB	25.257	127	GLU	CB	30.678
117	LEU	HG	1.480	122	LEU	N	128.443	127	GLU	CG	32.773
117	LEU	HDA	0.866					127	GLU	N	119.829
117	LEU	HDB	0.809	123	VAL	HA	6.114				
117	LEU	HN	7.182	123	VAL	HB	2.801	128	VAL	HA	3.900
117	LEU	CA	56.529	123	VAL	HGA	1.162	128	VAL	HB	2.176
117	LEU	CB	42.858	123	VAL	HGB	1.234	128	VAL	HGA	1.096
117	LEU	CDA	23.761	123	VAL	HN	9.394	128	VAL	HGB	0.930
117	LEU	CDB	26.914	123	VAL	CA	58.926	128	VAL	HN	8.225
117	LEU	N	126.595	123	VAL	CB	37.068	128	VAL	CA	63.223
				123	VAL	CGA	24.546	128	VAL	CB	31.172
118	ALA	HA	5.338	123	VAL	CGB	19.120	128	VAL	CGA	20.757
118	ALA	HB	1.386	123	VAL	N	111.370	128	VAL	CGB	21.458
118	ALA	HN	8.708					128	VAL	N	118.524
118	ALA	CA	51.482	124	ARG	HA	3.869				
118	ALA	CB	22.476	124	ARG	HBA	1.692	129	ASP	HA	4.766
118	ALA	N	128.238	124	ARG	HBB	1.774	129	ASP	HBA	2.778
				124	ARG	HGA	0.949	129	ASP	HBB	2.865
119	CYS	HA	5.567	124	ARG	HGB	0.720	129	ASP	HN	6.511
119	CYS	HBA	2.660	124	ARG	HDA	1.613	129	ASP	CA	53.019
119	CYS	HBB	3.019	124	ARG	HDB	2.399	129	ASP	CB	39.932
119	CYS	HN	9.446	124	ARG	HN	7.881	129	ASP	N	123.755
119	CYS	CA	55.650	124	ARG	CA	56.843				
119	CYS	CB	50.571	124	ARG	CB	33.392	130	ASP	HA	4.324
119	CYS	N	118.583	124	ARG	CG	25.919	130	ASP	HBA	2.816
				124	ARG	CD	42.850	130	ASP	HBB	2.816
120	GLN	HA	5.061	124	ARG	N	119.542	130	ASP	HN	9.033
120	GLN	HBA	1.939					130	ASP	CA	56.931
120	GLN	HBB	2.164	125	THR	HA	4.807	130	ASP	CB	37.859
120	GLN	HGA	1.227	125	THR	HB	4.205	130	ASP	N	123.583
120	GLN	HGB	2.315	125	THR	HGA	1.137				
120	GLN	HN	9.191	125	THR	HN	7.445	131	GLU	HA	3.992
120	GLN	HE1A	7.140	125	THR	CA	57.293	131	GLU	HBA	2.154
120	GLN	HE1B	7.702	125	THR	CB	69.945	131	GLU	HBB	2.012
120	GLN	CA	55.606	125	THR	CG2	21.769	131	GLU	HGA	2.425
120	GLN	CB	32.753	125	THR	N	108.311	131	GLU	HGB	2.425
120	GLN	N	118.487					131	GLU	HN	8.299
120	GLN	NE2	108.570	126	PRO	HA	4.018	131	GLU	CA	58.935
				126	PRO	HBA	0.831	131	GLU	CB	27.470
121	CYS	HA	4.576	126	PRO	HBB	1.811	131	GLU	CG	33.100
121	CYS	HBA	2.143	126	PRO	HGA	1.481	131	GLU	N	120.962
121	CYS	HBB	1.186	126	PRO	HGB	1.729				
121	CYS	HN	7.818	126	PRO	HDA	3.114	132	ALA	HA	3.222
121	CYS	CA	56.819	126	PRO	HDB	3.520	132	ALA	HB	1.166
121	CYS	CB	27.546	126	PRO	CA	62.470	132	ALA	HN	7.533
121	CYS	N	119.979	126	PRO	CB	28.348	132	ALA	CA	54.941
				136	PHE	CE2	131.418	132	ALA	CB	19.312

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
132	ALA	N	121.187	136	PHE	N	121.489	141	LYS	HEB	2.912
133	LEU	HA	3.983	137	ASP	HA	3.970	141	LYS	HN	7.102
133	LEU	HBA	1.501	137	ASP	HBA	2.719	141	LYS	HZ	7.561
133	LEU	HBB	1.835	137	ASP	HBB	2.881	141	LYS	CA	59.486
133	LEU	HG	1.741	137	ASP	HN	8.680	141	LYS	CB	32.497
133	LEU	HDA	0.888	137	ASP	CA	56.337	141	LYS	CG	24.566
133	LEU	HDB	0.809	137	ASP	CB	37.853	141	LYS	CD	29.221
133	LEU	HN	7.704	137	ASP	N	117.022	141	LYS	CE	41.536
133	LEU	CA	57.718					141	LYS	N	119.668
133	LEU	CB	41.408	138	LYS	HA	3.885	142	ALA	HA	4.393
133	LEU	CG	26.744	138	LYS	HBA	1.811	142	ALA	HB	1.336
133	LEU	CDA	25.418	138	LYS	HBB	1.830	142	ALA	HN	7.811
133	LEU	CDB	23.329	138	LYS	HGA	1.368	142	ALA	CA	51.672
133	LEU	N	116.354	138	LYS	HGB	1.491	142	ALA	CB	19.251
				138	LYS	HDA	1.612	142	ALA	N	118.346
134	GLU	HA	4.070	138	LYS	HDB	1.612				
134	GLU	HBA	2.123	138	LYS	HEA	2.922	143	LEU	HA	4.680
134	GLU	HBB	2.123	138	LYS	HEB	2.922	143	LEU	HBA	1.636
134	GLU	HGA	2.422	138	LYS	HN	7.879	143	LEU	HBB	1.114
134	GLU	HGB	2.562	138	LYS	CA	59.515	143	LEU	HG	1.628
134	GLU	HN	7.966	138	LYS	CB	32.433	143	LEU	HDA	0.769
134	GLU	CA	59.213	138	LYS	CG	25.335	143	LEU	HDB	0.769
134	GLU	CB	27.548	138	LYS	CD	29.220	143	LEU	HN	7.679
134	GLU	CG	33.346	138	LYS	CE	42.284	143	LEU	CA	51.777
134	GLU	N	119.650	138	LYS	N	119.605	143	LEU	CB	43.150
								143	LEU	CG	26.919
135	LYS	HA	3.837	139	ALA	HA	4.045	143	LEU	CDA	25.656
135	LYS	HBA	1.619	139	ALA	HB	1.332	143	LEU	CDB	23.130
135	LYS	HBB	1.461	139	ALA	HN	7.771	143	LEU	N	119.448
135	LYS	HGA	1.112	139	ALA	CA	54.380				
135	LYS	HGB	1.278	139	ALA	CB	17.696	144	PRO	HA	4.584
135	LYS	HDA	1.425	139	ALA	N	121.588	144	PRO	HBA	1.812
135	LYS	HDB	1.134					144	PRO	HBB	2.343
135	LYS	HEA	2.933	140	LEU	HA	3.862	144	PRO	HGA	2.102
135	LYS	HEB	2.933	140	LEU	HBA	1.334	144	PRO	HGB	2.102
135	LYS	HN	7.875	140	LEU	HBB	1.239	144	PRO	HDA	3.173
135	LYS	CA	59.017	140	LEU	HG	1.270	144	PRO	HDB	3.657
135	LYS	CB	31.964	140	LEU	HDA	0.107	144	PRO	CA	62.170
135	LYS	CG	25.078	140	LEU	HDB	-0.079	144	PRO	CB	28.042
135	LYS	CD	28.658	140	LEU	HN	7.415	144	PRO	CG	27.752
135	LYS	CE	42.318	140	LEU	CA	55.312	144	PRO	CD	49.707
135	LYS	N	119.602	140	LEU	CB	41.433				
				140	LEU	CG	26.495	145	MET	HA	4.168
136	PHE	HA	4.258	140	LEU	CDA	23.121	145	MET	HBA	2.192
136	PHE	HBA	3.132	140	LEU	CDB	24.115	145	MET	HBB	2.307
136	PHE	HBB	3.299	140	LEU	N	114.138	145	MET	HGA	1.440
136	PHE	HD1	7.203					145	MET	HGB	2.007
136	PHE	HDA	7.203	141	LYS	HA	3.875	145	MET	HN	7.626
136	PHE	HE1	7.296	141	LYS	HBA	1.778	145	MET	CA	54.132
136	PHE	HEA	7.296	141	LYS	HBB	1.875	145	MET	CB	33.068
136	PHE	HN	8.486	141	LYS	HGA	1.349	145	MET	CG	32.789
136	PHE	CA	60.100	141	LYS	HGB	1.349	145	MET	N	118.081
136	PHE	CB	39.409	141	LYS	HDA	1.633				
136	PHE	CD1	131.910	141	LYS	HDB	1.475	146	HIS	HA	4.909
136	PHE	CD2	131.910	141	LYS	HEA	2.912	146	HIS	HBA	2.758
136	PHE	CE1	131.418	151	PHE	HA	5.033	146	HIS	HBB	3.541

No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift	No.	Residue	Atom	Shift
146	HIS	HDA	7.491	151	PHE	HBA	2.720	155	GLN	CG	34.854
146	HIS	HN	8.664	151	PHE	HBB	3.124	155	GLN	N	119.140
146	HIS	CA	55.762	151	PHE	HD1	7.375	155	GLN	NE2	111.805
146	HIS	CB	31.065	151	PHE	HDA	7.375				
146	HIS	N	117.966	151	PHE	HE1	7.250	156	LEU	HA	3.075
				151	PHE	HEA	7.250	156	LEU	HBA	1.182
147	ILE	HA	4.584	151	PHE	HN	7.967	156	LEU	HBB	1.551
147	ILE	HB	1.924	151	PHE	CA	57.078	156	LEU	HG	1.629
147	ILE	HGA	0.920	151	PHE	CB	41.921	156	LEU	HDA	0.605
147	ILE	HG1A	1.681	151	PHE	CD1	132.970	156	LEU	HDB	0.605
147	ILE	HG1B	1.681	151	PHE	CD2	132.970	156	LEU	HN	7.453
147	ILE	HD1	0.919	151	PHE	CE1	131.209	156	LEU	CA	57.725
147	ILE	HN	7.661	151	PHE	CE2	131.209	156	LEU	CB	41.406
147	ILE	CA	60.104	151	PHE	N	119.835	156	LEU	CG	27.497
147	ILE	CB	40.150					156	LEU	CDA	25.111
147	ILE	CG1	29.220	152	ASN	HA	4.942	156	LEU	CDB	25.111
147	ILE	CG2	14.489	152	ASN	HBA	2.562	156	LEU	N	115.674
147	ILE	CD1	16.968	152	ASN	HBB	2.768				
147	ILE	N	117.232	152	ASN	HN	8.689	157	GLU	HA	4.294
				152	ASN	HD1A	6.928	157	GLU	HGA	2.235
148	ARG	HA	4.924	152	ASN	HD1B	7.517	157	GLU	HGB	2.372
148	ARG	HBA	1.741	152	ASN	CA	50.904	157	GLU	HN	7.044
148	ARG	HBB	1.596	152	ASN	CB	38.159	157	GLU	CA	55.885
148	ARG	HGA	1.391	152	ASN	N	119.260	157	GLU	CG	33.007
148	ARG	HGB	1.391	152	ASN	ND2	113.458	157	GLU	N	112.453
148	ARG	HDA	2.986								
148	ARG	HDB	2.986	153	PRO	HA	3.877	158	GLU	HA	4.403
148	ARG	HN	8.280	153	PRO	HBA	1.852	158	GLU	HBA	1.805
148	ARG	CA	55.069	153	PRO	HBB	2.316	158	GLU	HBB	2.012
148	ARG	CB	33.071	153	PRO	HGA	1.810	158	GLU	HN	7.132
148	ARG	CG	27.142	153	PRO	HGB	2.207	158	GLU	N	118.631
148	ARG	CD	43.478	153	PRO	HDA	3.789				
148	ARG	N	126.523	153	PRO	HDB	3.789	159	GLN	HBA	1.988
				153	PRO	CA	66.316	159	GLN	HBB	1.988
149	LEU	HA	4.657	153	PRO	CB	32.185	159	GLN	HGA	2.396
149	LEU	HBA	1.342	153	PRO	CG	28.653	159	GLN	HGB	2.517
149	LEU	HBB	1.152	153	PRO	CD	50.594	159	GLN	HE1A	6.798
149	LEU	HG	2.865					159	GLN	HE1B	7.474
149	LEU	HDA	0.768	154	THR	HA	3.832	159	GLN	NE2	111.965
149	LEU	HDB	0.819	154	THR	HB	4.090				
149	LEU	HN	9.097	154	THR	HG1	4.661	160	CYS	HN	8.214
149	LEU	CA	53.683	154	THR	HGA	1.112	160	CYS	N	124.15
149	LEU	CB	45.835	154	THR	HN	7.719				
149	LEU	CG	26.667	154	THR	CA	65.756				
149	LEU	CDA	23.525	154	THR	CB	68.679				
149	LEU	CDB	19.556	154	THR	CG2	21.818				
149	LEU	N	123.699	154	THR	N	111.383				
150	SER	HA	4.782	155	GLN	HA	3.753				
150	SER	HBA	3.728	155	GLN	HGA	2.234				
150	SER	HBB	3.728	155	GLN	HGB	2.367				
150	SER	HG	5.324	155	GLN	HN	7.723				
150	SER	HN	8.147	155	GLN	HE1A	6.964				
150	SER	CA	57.321	155	GLN	HE1B	7.559				
150	SER	CB	65.478	155	GLN	CA	57.946				
150	SER	N	116.451	155	GLN	CB	29.238				

Appendix B

Semi-Automated Assignment Macros


```

from ccpnmr.analysis.ExperimentBasic import getSpectra
from ccpnmr.analysis.AssignmentBasic import makeResonanceGuiName, findMatchingShifts, assignResToDim,
getResonanceAtomTuple
from sast import areResonancesBound, areAtomsBound
from ccpnmr.analysis.AssignmentBasic import clearPeakDim, makeResonanceGuiName
from ccpnmr.analysis.PeakBasic import pickPeak, deletePeak
from ccpnmr.analysis.MarkBasic import createPeakMark, removeMarks
from Cl3_fullauto import isHeteroN, isHeteroCaro

def fullyauto(argServer=None, peakList=None):

    assert argServer or peakList

    if argServer:
        project = argServer.getProject()

    #this bit gets all the spectra we're going to use

    spectra=getSpectra(project, minNumDim = 3)
    for experiment in project.nmrExperiments:

        print experiment.name
        if experiment.name=='15N_noesy':
            noesy=experiment
        elif experiment.name=='13C_noe_15NH':
            xtra=experiment
        elif experiment.name=='13C_noesy':
            Cnoesy=experiment

    quit=0

    #now we get the peaklists that we need

    if not peakList:
        for peakLista in noesy.dataSources[0].peakLists:
            if peakLista.serial==1:
                peakList=peakLista.peaks
        for peakListb in xtra.dataSources[0].peakLists:
            if peakListb.serial==1:
                xpeakList=peakListb.peaks
        for peakListc in Cnoesy.dataSources[0].peakLists:
            if peakListc.serial==1:
                CpeakList=peakListc

    #start with residue 1 and group all peaks with resnol and same restype together

    for n in range(127):
        #number of residues
        if not quit:
            Hgroups={}
            Cshifts={}
            for peak in peakList:
                if peak.details:
                    continue
            else:
                residue=peak.peakDims[0].peakDimContribs[0].resonance.resonanceSet.atomSets[0].atoms[0].residue
                restype=peak.peakDims[0].peakDimContribs[0].resonance.name
                if n==residue.seqCode:
                    if Hgroups:
                        for groupno in Hgroups.keys():
                            if restype == Hgroups[groupno][0].peakDims[0].peakDimContribs[0].resonance.name:
                                Hgroups[groupno].append(peak)
                        break
                    else:

```

```

                        groupno+=1
                        Hgroups[groupno]=[ ]
                        Hgroups[groupno].append(peak)
            else:
                Hgroups[1]=[ ]
                Hgroups[1].append(peak)

    for Cpeak in xpeakList:
        if Cpeak.details:
            continue
        else:
            if Cpeak.peakDims[0].peakDimContribs:
                residue=Cpeak.peakDims[0].peakDimContribs[0].resonance.resonanceSet.atomSets[0].atoms[0].residue
                restype=Cpeak.peakDims[0].peakDimContribs[0].resonance.name
            else:
                continue
            if n==residue.seqCode:
                if Hgroups:
                    for groupno in Hgroups.keys():
                        if restype == Hgroups[groupno][0].peakDims[0].peakDimContribs[0].resonance.name:
                            peakDim=Cpeak.peakDims[2]
                            dataDimRef=peakDim.dataDimRef
                            shift=peakDim.position
                            if groupno in Cshifts.keys():
                                Cshifts[groupno].append((findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, shift, tolerance=0.3)))
                                Cshifts[groupno][-1].append(Cpeak)
                                break
                            else:
                                Cshifts[groupno]=((findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, shift, tolerance=0.3)))
                                Cshifts[groupno][0].append(Cpeak)
                            break
                    for groupno in Hgroups.keys():
                        if not quit:
                            for peak in Hgroups[groupno]:
                                popup=argServer.parent.getMainWindowPopup('window5')
                                popup.gotoPeak(peak)
                                peakDim=peak.peakDims[1]
                                dataDimRef=peakDim.dataDimRef
                                shift=peakDim.position
                                position=[ ]
                                position.append(peakDim.value)
                                position.append(peak.peakDims[0].value)
                                for shift in findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, shift, tolerance=0.03):
                                    resonance=makeResonanceGuiName(shift.resonance)
                                    print 'this is', resonance
                                    if isHeteroN(shift.resonance):
                                        residue=shift.resonance.resonanceSet.atomSets[0].atoms[0].residue
                                        for resonance in residue.resonanceGroups[0].resonances:
                                            if areResonancesBound(shift.resonance, resonance) and
                                                resonance.resonanceSet!=shift.resonance.resonanceSet:
                                                    Nres=resonance
                                                    position.append(Nres.shifts[0].value)
                                                    newpeak=pickPeak(peakLista, position, unit='ppm')
                                                    createPeakMark(newpeak)
                                                    popup=argServer.parent.getMainWindowPopup('window2') #window for Nnoesy
                                                    popup.gotoPeak(newpeak)
                                                    if argServer.askYesNo(message='Is there a symmetry related peak?'):
                                                        assignResToDim(peakDim, shift.resonance)
                                                        newpeak.delete()
                            else:
                                newpeak.delete()

```



```

del position[-1]

elif isHeteroCaro(shift.resonance):
    for group in Cshifts[groupno]:
        for Cshift in group[:-1]:
            if areResonancesBound(shift.resonance, Cshift.resonance):
                position.append(Cshift.value)

                newpeak=pickPeak(peakListc, position, unit='ppm')
                createPeakMark(newpeak)
                popup=argServer.parent.getWindowPopup('window3') #window for Cnoesy
                popup.gotoPeak(newpeak)
                if argServer.askYesNo(message='Is there a symmetry related peak?'):
                    assignResToDim(peakDim, shift.resonance)
                    newpeak.delete()
                    group[-1].setDetails('Done')
                else:
                    newpeak.delete()

            del position[-1]

        else:
            if shift.resonance.resonanceSet:
                residue=shift.resonance.resonanceSet.atomSets[0].atoms[0].residue
            else:
                continue
            for resonance in residue.resonanceGroups[0].resonances:
                if areResonancesBound(shift.resonance, resonance):
                    if resonance.shifts and resonance.resonanceSet!=shift.resonance.resonanceSet:
                        arores=resonance
                        position.append(arores.shifts[0].value)
                        newpeak=pickPeak(peakListc, position, unit='ppm')
                        createPeakMark(newpeak)
                        popup=argServer.parent.getWindowPopup('window3') #window for Cnoesy
                        popup.gotoPeak(newpeak)
                        if argServer.askYesNo(message='Is there a symmetry related peak?'):
                            assignResToDim(peakDim, shift.resonance)
                            newpeak.delete()
                        else:
                            newpeak.delete()

                    del position[-1]

removeMarks(project)

peak.setDetails('Done')

if argServer.askYesNo(message='Next strip?'):
    continue
else:
    quit=1
    break

```



```

from ccp.api import Nmr
from ccpnmr.analysis.PeakBasic import findMatchingPeaks, aliasedPeakDimPosition, addPeakToSelected,
removePeakFromSelected
from memops.gui.Frame import Frame
from memops.gui.Label import Label
from memops.gui.LabelFrame import LabelFrame
from memops.gui.PulldownMenu import PulldownMenu
from memops.gui.ScrolledMatrix import ScrolledMatrix
from memops.gui.Util import createDismissHelpButtonList
from memops.gui.MessageReporter import showError
from ccpnmr.analysis.UnitConverter import unit_converter, pnt2ppm
from ccpnmr.analysis.Util import setDataDimAssignmentTolerance, getDataDimAssignmentTolerance
from ccpnmr.analysis.AssignmentBasic import makeResonanceGuiName, findMatchingShifts, assignResToDim,
getResonanceAtomTuple
import string
import difflib
from Tkinter import *
import sys
import autoass
from sast import symfinder, CHlister

def phltr(argServer=None, peaks=None):

```

```

    assert argServer or peaks

```

```

    class possible:

```

```

        def __init__(self, shift, peak, peakDim, counter):
            self.name=makeResonanceGuiName(shift.resonance)
            self.delta=abs(shift.value-peakDim.value)
            self.peak=counter
            self.intensity=peak.peakIntensities[0].value
            self.Hres=shift.resonance
            self.atomtype=list(getResonanceAtomTuple(shift.resonance)[-1])
            self.shift=shift.value
            if shift.resonance.resonanceSet:
                if isHeteroN(shift.resonance):
                    self.X='N'
                else:
                    self.X='C'

```

```

    class valid:

```

```

        def __init__(self, H,X):
            self.Hname=H.name
            self.Xname=X.name
            self.Hdelta=H.delta
            self.Xdelta=X.delta
            self.Hpk=H.peak
            self.Xpk=X.peak
            self.Hres=H.Hres
            self.Xres=X.Hres
            self.Xshift=X.shift
            self.Hintensity=H.intensity
            self.Xintensity=X.intensity
            self.X=H.X

```

```

Cpeaks=[]
Hpeaks=[]
Npeaks=[]
Cobjects=[]
CHobjects=[]
NHobjects=[]
Nobjects=[]
validpeaks={}
Cintensities=[]
Nintensities=[]
NHintensities=[]

```

```

CHintensities={}
reducedambiguity={}
totalambiguity={}
aro=['PHE','TYR','TRP','HIS']
aro2=['H','HA','HBa','HbB','HB']

```

```

def areAtomsBound(atom1, atom2):

```

```

    for chemBond in atom1.chemAtom.chemBonds:
        for chematom in chemBond.chemAtoms:
            if chematom.name==atom2.name:
                return 1
    return 0

```

```

def areResonancesBound(resonance1, resonance2):

```

```

    if resonance1.resonanceSet and resonance2.resonanceSet:
        residue1 = resonance1.resonanceSet.atomSets[0].atoms[0].residue
        residue2 = resonance2.resonanceSet.atomSets[0].atoms[0].residue
    else:
        residue1=None
        residue2=1
    # quickly discard on the basis of residue
    if residue1 is not residue2:
        return 0

```

```

    for atomSet1 in resonance1.resonanceSet.atomSets:
        for atom1 in atomSet1.atoms:
            for atomSet2 in resonance2.resonanceSet.atomSets:
                for atom2 in atomSet2.atoms:
                    if areAtomsBound(atom1,atom2):
                        return 1
    return 0

```

```

def isHeteroN(resonance):

```

```

    if resonance.resonanceSet:
        for atomSet in resonance.resonanceSet.atomSets:
            for atom in atomSet.atoms:
                for chemBond in atom.chemAtom.chemBonds:
                    for chematom in chemBond.chemAtoms:
                        if 'N' in list(chematom.name):
                            return 1
    return 0

```

```

if peaks is None:

```

```

    peaks = argServer.getCurrentPeaks()

```

```

for peak in peaks:

```

```

    if peak.peakList.serial==2 and peak.peakList.dataSource.experiment.name=='15Nnoe':
        Hpeaks.append(peak)
    elif peak.peakList.dataSource.experiment.name=='C_N_noe':
        Cpeaks.append(peak)
    elif peak.peakList.dataSource.experiment.name=='15N_noe_15N':
        Npeaks.append(peak)

```

```

isotope=peaks[0].peakDims[-1].dataDim.dataDimRefs[0].expDimRef.isotopeCodes

```

```

project = argServer.getProject()

```

```

Ccounter=1

```

```

for peak in Cpeaks:

```

```

    resname=[]
    peakDim=peak.peakDims[-1]
    dataDimRef=peakDim.dataDimRef
    dataDim=dataDimRef.dataDim

```

```

    position=peakDim.position
    Cintensities.append(peak.peakIntensities[0].value)

```



```

for shift in findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, position, tolerance=0.27):
    if shift.resonance.resonanceSet:
        Cpkobject=possible(shift, peak, peakDim, Ccounter)
        Cobjects.append(Cpkobject)

Ccounter=Ccounter+1

Cratios=[]
Ccopy=Cintensities[:]
Ccopy.sort()
if Cintensities:
    for Cint in Cintensities:
        Cratios.append(Cint/Ccopy[-1])

Ncounter=1
for peak in Npeaks:
    peakDim=peak.peakDims[-2]
    dataDimRef=peakDim.dataDimRef
    dataDim=dataDimRef.dataDim
    position=peakDim.position + peakDim.numAliasing*dataDim.numPoints
    Nintensities.append(abs(peak.peakIntensities[0].value))

for shift in findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, position, tolerance=0.19):
    print Ncounter, makeResonanceGuiName(shift.resonance), shift
    Npkobject=possible(shift, peak, peakDim, Ncounter)
    Nobjects.append(Npkobject)
    Ncounter+=1

Nratios=[]
Ncopy=Nintensities[:]
Ncopy.sort()
if Nintensities:
    for Nint in Nintensities:
        Nratios.append(Nint/Ncopy[-1])

print len(Hpeaks)

Hcounter=1

for Hpeak in Hpeaks:
    allHpeaks={}
    allHpeakname=[]
    diagnosis=[]
    peakDim=Hpeak.peakDims[-2]
    position=peakDim.position
    dataDimRef=peakDim.dataDimRef
    dataDim=peakDim.dataDimRef.dataDim
    isotope=peakDim.dataDim.dataDimRefs[0].expDimRef.isotopeCodes

    totalambiguity[Hcounter]=0
    if findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, position, tolerance=0.032):
        for shift in findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, position, tolerance=0.032):
            totalambiguity[Hcounter]+=1
            if shift.resonance.resonanceGroup:
                if str(shift.resonance.resonanceGroup.residue.ccpCode) in aro and str(shift.resonance.name) not in
aro2:
                    if Hcounter in validpeaks.keys():

```

```

        validpeaks[Hcounter].append(shift)
        Hpkobject=None
    else:
        validpeaks[Hcounter]=[shift]
        Hpkobject=None
    else:
        Hpkobject=possible(shift, Hpeak, peakDim, Hcounter)

else:
    #if not Hpkobject.resonance.resonanceGroup:
    Hpkobject=None # pass

if Hpkobject:
    if isHeteroN(Hpkobject.Hres):
        NHobjects.append(Hpkobject)
        if Hpeak.peakIntensities[0].value not in NHintensities:
            NHintensities.append(abs(Hpeak.peakIntensities[0].value))
            CHintensities.append(0)
        else:
            CHobjects.append(Hpkobject)

        if Hpeak.peakIntensities[0].value not in CHintensities:
            CHintensities.append(abs(Hpeak.peakIntensities[0].value))
            NHintensities.append(0)
    else:
        validpeaks[Hcounter]=[]
        totalambiguity[Hcounter]=0
        NHintensities.append(0)
        CHintensities.append(0)
        Hcounter=Hcounter+1

Nhratios=[]
if NHintensities:
    NHcopy=NHintensities[:]
    NHcopy.sort()
    print NHcopy
    if NHcopy[-1]!=0:
        for NHint in NHintensities:
            Nhratios.append(NHint/NHcopy[-1])

CHratios=[]
if CHintensities:
    CHcopy=CHintensities[:]
    CHcopy.sort()
    if CHcopy[-1]!=0:
        for CHint in CHintensities:
            CHratios.append(CHint/CHcopy[-1])

for H in CHobjects:
    for C in Cobjects:
        if areResonancesBound(H.Hres, C.Hres):
            validpk=valid(H,C)
            if validpk.Hpk not in validpeaks.keys():
                validpeaks[validpk.Hpk]=[validpk]
            else:
                validpeaks[validpk.Hpk].append(validpk)
        elif H.peak not in validpeaks.keys():
            validpeaks[H.peak]=[H]
for H in NHobjects:
    for N in Nobjects:
        if areResonancesBound(H.Hres, N.Hres):

```



```

        validpk=valid(H,N)
        if validpk.Hpk in validpeaks.keys():
            validpeaks[validpk.Hpk].append(validpk)
        else:
            validpeaks[validpk.Hpk]=[validpk]
        print validpk.Hpk, validpk.Xres

    elif H.peak not in validpeaks.keys():
        validpeaks[H.peak]=[]

print validpeaks

class interface(Frame):
    def __init__(self, root, validpeaks, Hpeaks, Cratio, Nr ratios, CH ratios, NH ratios, totalambiguity, peaks):
        Frame.__init__(self, root)
        self.root=root
        self.pks=validpeaks
        self.peaks=peaks
        self.keys=self.pks.keys()
        self.Hpeaks=Hpeaks
        self.resonance={}
        self.states=[]
        self.usedNpeaks=[]
        self.usedCpeaks=[]
        self.partusedNpeaks=[]
        self.partusedCpeaks=[]
        self.display()
        self.matches=[]
        self.Cratios=Cratios
        self.Nratios=Nratios
        self.Chratios=CHratios
        self.NHratios=NHratios
        self.totalambiguity=totalambiguity

    def display(self):
        Label(self.root, text='Select a peak', bg='red').grid(sticky=NSEW)
        box=Listbox(self.root, relief='sunken')
        sbar=Scrollbar(self.root)
        sbar.config(command=box.yview)
        box.config(yscrollcommand=sbar.set)
        sbar.grid(row=1, column=1, sticky=NSEW)
        box.grid(row=1, column=0)
        for peak in self.pks.keys():
            box.insert(END, peak)
        box.config(selectmode=SINGLE, setgrid=1)
        self.box=box
        #self.Hpeak=self.Hpeaks[0]
        Button(root, text='Assign', command=self.onPoss).grid()
        Button(root, text='Check', command=self.onChk).grid()
        Button(root, text='Assign other dims', command=self.onallassign).grid()

    def onChk(self):
        unusedpeaks=[]
        print 'check in progress'
        for key in self.keys:
            for pk in self.pks[key]:
                if hasattr(pk, 'Xpk'):
                    if pk.X=='C' and pk.Xpk in self.usedCpeaks:
                        pass
                    elif pk.X=='C' and pk.Xpk in self.partusedCpeaks:
                        pass
                    elif pk.X=='C' and pk.Xpk not in unusedpeaks.keys():
                        unusedpeaks[pk.Xpk]=pk
        if unusedpeaks:
            print len(unusedpeaks)
            print 'unused peaks found'

```

```

        win=Toplevel()
        Label(win, text='Unused Peaks', bg='red').grid(sticky=NSEW)
        r=2
        for pk in unusedpeaks.values():
            Label(win, text='%s, shift = %g' % (pk.Xpk, pk.Xshift), relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, sticky=NSEW)
            r+=1
        unusedpeaks={}

    def onPoss(self):
        for pk in self.peaks:
            if pk in argServer.getCurrentPeaks():
                peaks=self.peaks
                continue
            else:
                peaks=argServer.getCurrentPeaks()

        self.number=int(self.box.get(ACTIVE))
        self.index=int(self.box.get(ACTIVE))-1
        self.Hpeak=self.Hpeaks[self.index]
        if symfinder(self.Hpeak, Hpossibles=self.pks[self.number], pks=peaks):
            self.key=symfinder(self.Hpeak, Hpossibles=self.pks[self.number], pks=peaks)
        else:
            self.key=self.pks[self.number]
        self.states=[]
        print self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2].value

        if self.key!=[]:

            for i in range(len(self.key)):

                if hasattr(self.key[i], 'X') and self.key[i].X=='N':
                    self.win=Toplevel()
                    self.Titles=['Hposs', 'Hdelta', 'Npk', 'Nposs', 'Nshift', 'Ndelta', 'Intensity']
                    Label(self.win, text='Possibilities for Hpk %d, shift=%g, intensity=%g' % (self.number,
                    self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2].value, self.NHratios[self.index]), bg='red').grid(columnspan=8, sticky=NSEW)
                    self.window(peaks=self.key, ratios=Nratios, usedpks=self.usedNpeaks,
                    partusedpks=self.partusedNpeaks)
                    break
                elif hasattr(self.key[i], 'X') and self.key[i].X=='C':
                    self.win=Toplevel()
                    self.Titles=['Hposs', 'Hdelta', 'Cpk', 'Cposs', 'Cshift', 'Cdelta', 'Intensity']
                    Label(self.win, text='Possibilities for Hpk %d, shift=%g, intensity=%g' % (self.number,
                    self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2].value, self.Chratios[self.index]), bg='red').grid(columnspan=8, sticky=NSEW)
                    self.window(peaks=self.key, ratios=Cratios, usedpks=self.usedCpeaks,
                    partusedpks=self.partusedCpeaks)
                    break
                elif i==len(self.key)-1:
                    self.win=Toplevel()
                    self.Titles=['Hposs', 'Hdelta', 'Cpk', 'Cposs', 'Cshift', 'Cdelta', 'Intensity']
                    self.window(peaks=self.key)
                    break
            else:
                win=Toplevel()
                if self.NHratios[self.index]!=0.0 and self.Chratios:
                    Label(win, text='Possibilities for Hpk %d, shift=%g, intensity=%g(NH) or %g(CH)'
                    % (self.number, self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2].value, self.NHratios[self.index], self.Chratios[self.index]),
                    bg='red').grid(columnspan=5, sticky=NSEW)
                    Label(win, text='No matches', bg='red').grid(columnspan=5, sticky=NSEW)
                elif self.NHratios[self.index]!=0.0 and not self.Chratios:
                    Label(win, text='Possibilities for Hpk %d, shift=%g, intensity=%g(NH)'
                    % (self.number, self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2].value, self.NHratios[self.index]), bg='red').grid(columnspan=5, sticky=NSEW)
                    Label(win, text='No matches', bg='red').grid(columnspan=5, sticky=NSEW)
                else:
                    Label(win, text='Possibilities for Hpk %d, shift=%g, intensity=%g'
                    % (self.number, self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2].value, self.Chratios[self.index]), bg='red').grid(columnspan=5, sticky=NSEW)
                    Label(win, text='No matches', bg='red').grid(columnspan=5, sticky=NSEW)

```



```

def window(self, peaks=None, ratios=None, usedpkcs=None, partusedpkcs=None):

def onAssign():
    resonances=[]
    peakDim=self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2]

    for i in range(len(self.states)):
        if self.states[i].get():
            resonances.append(self.poss[i+2])
        self.states[i]=[]
        if len(resonances)==1:
            if hasattr(resonances[0],'resonance'):
                resonance=resonances[0].resonance
            elif hasattr(resonances[0],'Hres'):
                resonance=resonances[0].Hres

            assignResToDim(peakDim, resonance)
            self.Hpeak.setDetails(str(totalambiguity[self.number])+ ' '+str(1))
            if hasattr(resonances[0],'X') and resonances[0].X=='N':
                self.usedNpeaks.append(resonances[0].Xpk)

            elif hasattr(resonances[0],'X') and resonances[0].X=='C':
                self.usedCpeaks.append(resonances[0].Xpk)
            self.poss=[]

        else:
            self.Hpeak.setDetails(str(totalambiguity[self.number])+ ' '+str(len(resonances)))
            for item in resonances:
                if hasattr(item,'resonance'):
                    res=item.resonance
                elif hasattr(item,'Hres'):
                    res=item.Hres

            assignResToDim(peakDim, res)
            self.Hpeak.setDetails(self.Hpeak.details+' '+str(makeResonanceGuiName(res)))
            if hasattr(resonances[0],'X') and resonances[0].X=='N':
                self.partusedNpeaks.append(item.Xpk)
            elif hasattr(resonances[0],'X') and resonances[0].X=='C':
                self.partusedCpeaks.append(item.Xpk)
            self.poss=[]

def selectAll():
    print self.states
    for variable in self.states:
        print variable
        variable.set(1)
    print variable.get()

def onAssignHxAb():
    resonances=[]
    peakDim=self.Hpeak.peakDims[-2]

    for i in range(len(self.states)):
        if self.states[i].get():
            resonances.append(self.poss[i+2])
    for item in resonances:
        if hasattr(item,'resonance'):
            res=item.resonance

```

```

        elif hasattr(item,'Hres'):
            res=item.Hres
            assignResToDim(peakDim, res)
            self.Hpeak.setDetails(str(totalambiguity[self.number])+ ' '+str(1))
            if hasattr(resonances[0],'X') and resonances[0].X=='N':
                self.usedNpeaks.append(item.Xpk)
            elif hasattr(resonances[0],'X') and resonances[0].X=='C':
                self.usedCpeaks.append(item.Xpk)

col=0
for Title in self.Titles:
    Label(self.win, text=Title, bg='white', relief=RIDGE).grid(row=1, column=col, sticky=NSEW)
    col+=1

r=2
self.poss=[]
for poss in peaks:
    var=IntVar()
    if hasattr(poss, 'Hname'):
        Label(self.win, text=poss.Hname, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=0, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(self.win, text=poss.Hdelta, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=1, sticky=NSEW)
        if poss.Xpk in usedpkcs:
            Label(self.win, text=poss.Xpk, bg='red', relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=2, sticky=NSEW)
        elif poss.Xpk in partusedpkcs:
            Label(self.win, text=poss.Xpk, bg='yellow', relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=2, sticky=NSEW)
        else:
            Label(self.win, text=poss.Xpk, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=2, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(self.win, text=poss.Xname, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=3, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(self.win, text=poss.Xshift, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=4, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(self.win, text=poss.Xdelta, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=5, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(self.win, text=ratios[int(poss.Xpk)-1], relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=6, sticky=NSEW)
        self.win.rowconfigure(r, weight=1)
        self.poss[r]=poss
        self.states.append(var)
        Checkbutton(self.win, text=r-2, command=None, variable=var).grid(row=r, column=7, sticky=NSEW)
        r+=1
    else:
        self.poss[r]=poss
        self.states.append(var)
        Label(self.win, text=makeResonanceGuiName(poss.resonance)+' : aromatic possibility', bg='red',
            relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, columnspan=7, sticky=NSEW)
        Checkbutton(self.win, text=r-2, command=None, variable=var).grid(row=r, column=7, sticky=NSEW)
        r+=1

    for z in range(8):
        self.win.columnconfigure(z, weight=1)

Button(self.win, text='Assign', command=onAssign).grid(row=r+1, column=1, sticky=NSEW)
Button(self.win, text='Select all', command=selectAll).grid(row=r+1, column=2, sticky=NSEW)
Button(self.win, text='Assign Hx' + Unambiguous', command=onAssignHxAb).grid(row=r+1, column=3, sticky=NSEW)
self.win.rowconfigure(r+1, weight=1)

def allAssign(self):
    for i in range(len(self.vars)):
        if self.vars[i].get():
            self.matches.append(self.matchedposs[i+1])

    if len(self.matches)==1:
        match=self.matches[0]
        for peak in self.Hpeaks:
            res1=match[0].resonance
            peakDim1=peak.peakDims[0]
            print res1.name
            print peakDim1.dataDim.dataDimRefs[0].expDimRef.isotopeCodes
            res2=match[-1].resonance
            peakDim2=peak.peakDims[-1]
            assignResToDim(peakDim1, res1)

```



```

        assignResToDim(peakDim2, res2)
        self.matches=[]
    else:
        showError('Error', 'Only one may be selected')
        self.matches=[]

def onallassign(self):
    win=Toplevel()

    shifts=[]
    Hpossibles=[]
    Npossibles=[]
    self.matchedposs={}
    L=[]
    self.vars=[]

class possible:
    def __init__(self, shift, peakDim):
        self.peakDim=peakDim
        self.resonance=shift.resonance
        self.name=makeResonanceGuiName(shift.resonance)
        self.shift=shift.value
        self.residue=shift.resonance.resonanceSet.atomSets[0].atoms[0].residue

for peak in self.Hpeaks:
    for peakDim in peak.peakDims:
        dataDimRef=peakDim.dataDimRef
        dataDim=dataDimRef.dataDim
        position=peakDim.position
        if peakDim.dataDim.dataDimRefs[0].expDimRef.isotopeCodes=='(1H)':
            #tolerance=setDataDimAssignmentTolerance(dataDim, 0.035)
            for shift in findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, position, tolerance=0.035):
                if shift.resonance.resonanceSet:
                    if shifts:
                        if shift.resonance in shifts:
                            val=possible(shift, peakDim)
                            Hpossibles.append(val)
                        else:
                            shifts.append(shift.resonance)
                    else:
                        shifts.append(shift.resonance)
                else:
                    #tolerance=setDataDimAssignmentTolerance(dataDim, 0.1)
                    for shift in findMatchingShifts(dataDimRef, position, tolerance=0.2):
                        if shift.resonance:
                            print shift.resonance.name
                            if shifts:
                                if shift.resonance in shifts:
                                    val=possible(shift, peakDim)
                                    Npossibles.append(val)
                                else:
                                    shifts.append(shift.resonance)
                            else:
                                shifts.append(shift.resonance)

c=1
for item in Hpossibles:
    for other in Npossibles:
        match=[item, other]

if areResonancesBound(item.resonance, other.resonance) and item.resonance not in L:
    L.append(item.resonance)
    self.matchedposs[c]=match

```

```

c+=1

if self.matchedposs:
    Label(win, text='Possibilities', bg='red').grid(columnspan=5, sticky=NSEW)
    Titles=['Name', 'Shift', 'Name', 'Shift']
    col=0
    for Title in Titles:
        Label(win, text=Title, bg='white', relief=RIDGE).grid(row=1, column=col, sticky=NSEW)
        col+=1

    r=2

    for key in self.matchedposs.keys():

        var=IntVar()
        atom1, atom2=self.matchedposs[key]
        Label(win, text=atom1.name, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=0, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(win, text=atom1.shift, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=1, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(win, text=atom2.name, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=2, sticky=NSEW)
        Label(win, text=atom2.shift, relief=GROOVE).grid(row=r, column=3, sticky=NSEW)
        Checkbutton(win, command=None, variable=var).grid(row=r, column=4, sticky=NSEW)
        self.vars.append(var)
        win.rowconfigure(r, weight=1)

        r+=1
    for z in range(5):
        win.columnconfigure(z, weight=1)
    Button(win, text='Assign', command=self.allAssign).grid()

root=Toplevel()
if validpeaks:
    top=interface(root, validpeaks, Hpeaks, Cratios, Nratics, CHratios, NHRatios, totalambiguity, peaks)
    top.mainloop()

```